Westminster & City News

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POINTS OF VIEW PAGE 8

SYED KAMALL CALLS FOR COOL HEADS

Terror in Nice puts capital on high alert

Mayor pledges security review

BY GEOFF BAKER
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AS a top security expert warned that the Nice truck attack could be copied in London, Mayor Sadiq Khan has ordered an urgent terror review to determine whether more steel and concrete car-bomb barriers need to be put in key areas around the capital.

Police and security experts have been told to investigate whether barriers like those along Whitehall and outside Parliament now need to installed around the city which could be at risk of a similar attack to the truck terror atrocity which killed 84 people in France last week.

After declaring that the capital would "stand united" with France and insisting that the "poisonous and twisted" IS terrorists would be defeated, Mayor Khan said: "I reassure all Londoners that we are reviewing our own safety measures in light of this attack and that I and the Metropolitan Police Commissioner will do everything possible to keep Londoners safe."

REPORT, PAGE 7

A woman lays flowers at the French Embassy in Kensington in memory of the victims of the Nice terror attack Picture: SWNS

Footballers offer Obama peace plan

TUFF FC, London's acclaimed gang-busting teenage footballers, are to fly to The White House next month as ambassadors to help President Obama try to bring peace to the streets of America, *writes Geoff Baker.*

And the young soccer stars are also asking for a meeting with presidential candidate Donald Trump, "so that maybe we can melt his heart".

Thirty players from The Unity of Faiths Foundation's highly successful scheme to turn teenagers away from gang culture and the risk of radicalisation by turning them onto football instead, have been invited to the White House by President Obama, who wants them to brief him on how the scheme could be rolled out across the USA.

But the charity is urgently appealing to Londoners to help fund the crucial street peace mission which could help the President tackle the crime wave caused by Washington DC's 180 gangs.

The Foundation has been given £5,000 towards the cost of the trip by a TV company which is currently filming the success story of the TUFF FC players, who last month won the backing of The Pope, who agreed to become their patron when they met him at The Vatican.

But they need around £19,000 more in order to afford flights and hotel rooms for the squad of young ambassadors.

"We've got to find the money fast because we've been invited to The White House in the last week of August," said Dr Shamender Talwar, co-founder of the Kensington-based charity.

"We are desperately hoping that a benefactor or organisations will step up to help us with this crucial street peace mission. It would be a godsend if an airline or a hotel group could also help us out because this trip is so very important.

"The TUFF FC project has had great

TURN TO PAGE 3

INSPIRATIONAL BOSS LEAVES LASTING LEGACY – PAGE 9 ● LONDON UNITES TO REJECT HATE CRIME – PAGE 5 ● NEW FOCUS ON RICH BOY RACERS – PAGE 10

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The musical *Guys and Dolls* is still packing them in at the Phoenix Theatre on Charing Cross Road **TALK OF THE TOWN, PAGE 18**

Stage set for creative arts to celebrate diversity and unity

BY JACK DIXON
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THE architect of a multi-million pound redevelopment at one of west London's premier theatres says the creative arts can show "the best of who we are" at a time of political turbulence and division.

Madani Younis is steering the Bush Theatre through an ambitious revamp – the biggest in its 43-year history – as it seeks to cement its place among the capital's elite venues.

Ahead of its scheduled relaunch in early 2017, the theatre's artistic director says the Uxbridge Road venue has an exciting future in store, with an extra studio space and expanded garden in the pipeline.

But he believes the performing arts have an even more important role to play after the curtain goes down.

"We've seen a 500 per cent increase in racist attacks post-Brexit. In many ways that is such a tragedy because the greatest part of living and working in Shepherd's Bush is the diversity," he says.

"This is what makes the area so special and, artistically, this is why the work feels so rich across all art forms."

While the £4 million revamp is likely to boost the theatre's commercial prospects and attract a whole new generation of audiences, it is the Bush's potential to champion its community that drives Madani.

"My real success over the next few years will be making that building feel like it stands up for the community of Shepherd's Bush," he adds.

"With the political climate being what it is, I think it's important that our cultural [venues] speak of the stories that we are not seeing represented across the medium more widely."

Five months into the build and the new-look theatre is already beginning to take shape.

The Bush has achieved around 90 per cent of its target fundraising figure to cover the cost of the renovation and has made a commitment to locking prices at an accessible level for 20 per cent of all tickets.

For Madani, ensuring that the theatre is a home from home for local people is the driving force behind the project.

"Doing this season of work is a reflection of the belief that our work should be met by our community," he adds. "For many years we asked people to come to us. But I think for the first time we are going out in a very direct way into the community and that really excites me because the relationship we have with our audiences should feel intimate."

Madani was born in Watford to a Trinidadian mother and a Pakistani father – and was raised in a family that was part Christian and part Muslim.

After journeying to Southampton and Birmingham to study film and then moving to Leeds and Bradford to pursue his career, he returned to his London roots in 2012 to take over as artistic director at the Bush.

Under his guidance, the theatre is staging a new wave of plays inspired by the cultural diversity of the Uxbridge Road – one of Europe's most vibrant communities in terms of the number of languages spoken.

This Place We Know brings together six writers with a connection to the Shepherd's Bush area for a series of original pieces performed live in 'found' venues along the Uxbridge Road, including Defector's Weld, St Stephen's Church and the Nubian Life Resource Centre.

Madani Younis is steering the Bush Theatre through an ambitious revamp Picture: Richard Davenport

While the Bush is closed during the renovation, Madani says the theatre's temporary switch to premises on the Edward Woods estate has fuelled a desire to reach out to the community and create new work inspired by local people.

"We have learned something new every day just by being in and amongst the community," he says.

"This Place We Know was a project we felt was really important in terms of a narrative for us. We wanted all of our shows to take place in the Shepherd's Bush or west London area and we've invited writers who we feel reflect the diversity of the communities that surround us.

"Actually by taking our work into these spaces we will be producing our work in a very different way, a way that gives a different sense of what theatre can be and how theatre can exist in these found spaces."

As a boy Madani was inspired by his mother, an English teacher, who filled the family home with books by African-American and West Indian writers.

But like no other medium, he says, theatre has the ability to capture the poetry of our everyday lives.

"From a very young age I appreciated the power of the word, and just how powerful new writing and new stories could be on stage in front of an audience, and what that union feels like. I still believe there is no other art form that gives you that shared experience."

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Footballers to meet Obama

FROM PAGE 1

success in turning kids away from gangs in London and that's why President Obama wants to meet our players. This isn't any old meet and greet, the President genuinely wants to learn first-hand from the kids how America could take up the project.

"The gang problem in the USA is a big problem, the FBI estimates that there are some 33,000 gangs in the States. The example of TUFF FC cannot solve that problem overnight but the publicity that this trip could generate could plant an inspirational seed in the minds of teenagers who are at risk to the perils of gang culture."

Ms Anna Prior, co-founder of the project, added: "TUFF FC has worked in London and it would work in Washington DC and all across the States, President Obama can see that.

"There has been much strife on the streets of America recently, we have all seen that. An American version of our scheme could help work towards easing some of that tension and violence. America is looking for a better way and TUFF FC could help it find a new direction."

Besides winning the support of The Pope, the TUFF project has also been acclaimed as a street peace-bringer by the EU Parliament and by David Cameron – and now the young multi-culture footballers want to tackle Donald Trump too.

"The players realise the importance of this Washington visit and they are taking their responsibility very seriously," said Ms Prior.

"Last week they asked us if it would be possible to set up a meeting with Donald Trump so that, in their words, 'we can offer him a hand of friendship and possibly melt his heart'.

"They said, 'maybe, just maybe, we can change his mindset and show him that although we are all of different backgrounds, faiths and cultures, we are all human'."

Dr Talwar added: "We will be seeking a meeting with Mr Trump and with Hillary Clinton as one of them will soon hold the future of the world in his or her hands.

"The TUFF scheme is very much a part of that future because it demonstrably works. In London we have guys who have left gangs to join our football teams. This time last year two of our guys were in rival gangs, one in an Afghani gang and the other in a white gang, but now they play together in a football team.

"Our teams have had great success and have won London leagues but going to Washington will be our toughest match yet. There is a big dream at stake, if we can make it a reality it could start to change the world. We are just hoping that somebody out there will share the dream and help us make it to this key soccer summit with the President."

To help TUFF FC go to the donate page at thewebsite *www.theunityoffaiths.org* or email *info@theunityoffaiths.org*

Summer fun

TENNIS played to music, health walks through Holland Park and cycling sessions for the over 50s are just some of the low-cost activities on offer to residents of Kensington and Chelsea this summer.

The council's summer fitness programme runs until August 26 and session prices range from £1 to £3, while some activities such as the health walks are free.

DLD College London has received a number of major accolades at a national competition which celebrates media achievements in schools. The Westminster Bridge-based college took home first place for having the Teacher of the Year and was shortlisted for three other major awards at the annual 2016 Shine Awards. The school magazine, called Fiyar, was nominated for Best Cover, Best Layout and Design and Most Outstanding Pupil. Student Yasmine Adams was nominated for the latter award due to her commitment to the magazine. BTEC media teacher John Branney, pictured, won the Teacher of the Year award in recognition of the lasting and solid support he has shown the students and staff throughout the making of this magazine

Doctors' surgeries are in 'state of emergency'

BY GEOFF BAKER
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WORKFORCE shortages at GP practices across London have put doctors' surgeries in "a state of emergency" as more than 30 are facing closure and medical chiefs are warning that staff "are at breaking point".

Three GP practices in Kensington and Chelsea and two in Westminster are either considering closing to manage current or future vacancies, or terminating their contract.

The capital's entire health system is set to be hit hard as half of London GP practices have a vacancy, two-fifths expect a GP to retire in the next three years and 35 practices are planning to terminating their contract or considering closure, a shock survey has revealed.

As the workforce crumbles in the face of staff shortages, Dr Michelle Drage, Chief Executive of London-wide Local Medical Committees [LMCs], has warned that general practice in London faces "a dire situation" that will affect hundreds of thousands of Londoners.

Following a survey of 27 local medical committees and 1,317 GP practices, Dr Drage said: "London is in a state of emergency. Half of London's general practices are short of a key member of staff and more than a third are missing at least one GP.

"Whilst the remaining GPs, practice nurses and their teams are working flat out to fill in the gaps, they're at breaking point and need help to deal with the growing complexity of London's health needs.

"Without increased support, the future of community general practice looks decidedly gloomy: delivering current service with fewer staff is unsustainable and unsafe in the long term, let alone stretching to an extended seven-day services.

"The Government's promised influx of 5,000 new GPs has already been watered down and seems less and less likely with every day that passes. As we near October 2016, the point at which the NHS Five Year Forward View aspired to stabilise funding for general practice, the situation is still dire.

"The Forward View claimed to tackle retention and recruitment and introduce stability, but with our survey showing more GPs leaving the profession month on month; increasing vacancies for GPs and key staff across every part of the capital; and a steady rise in the number of practice closures, it is clear the plan is not working.

"Our general practices are the backbone of the NHS – providing for 90 per cent of patients' needs on a paltry eight per cent of its budget – and falling. To secure the future of general practice for the citizens of London we need more resource and more support.

"And we need it now, before it is too late."

The survey revealed that half of GP practices have vacancies, two fifths have a GP retiring and one fifth have both. The survey found:

■ 49 per cent, or 305, responding practices have a vacancy for a member of staff, with a combined patient list of 2,688,018 patients.

■ 37 per cent, or 234, responding practices have a GP vacancy.

■ 43 per cent, or 269, responding practices have a GP planning to retire in the next three years.

■ 22 per cent, or 141, responding practices have both a vacancy and a GP planning to retire in the next three years, affecting 1,241,002 registered patients.

Contract termination statistics revealed by the survey are:

■ Three per cent of responding practices, covering an estimated 88,000 patients, plan to terminate their contract to provide NHS services in the next three years.

■ 13 per cent of responding practices, covering an estimated 580,058 patients, do not know if they will terminate their contract in the next three years.

■ 15 per cent of responding practices, covering an estimated 753,215 patients, will not rule out terminating their contract in the next three years.

■ Only 70 per cent of responding practices, covering an estimated 3,798,142 patients, say they do not intend to terminate their NHS contract in the next three years.

Actions practices are considering to manage current or future vacancies:

■ 39 per cent of practices are considering employing additional locum or agency staff.

■ 31 per cent of practices are considering succession planning

■ 17 per cent of practices are considering employing a pharmacist

■ 15 per cent of practices are considering reducing services

■ Combined, 35 practices are either considering closing to manage current or future vacancies, or terminating their contract per cent of practices are considering closing

Hospital bids to calm fears over heart ops

CHELSEA'S Royal Brompton Hospital has moved firmly to calm patients' fears following an "irrational and reckless" announcement by NHS England that congenital heart operations at the world-renowned centre could be stopped.

Hospital chiefs have promised "full and frank discussions" with NHS England as they fight the highly-controversial proposal which has alarmed patients and families who have deluged the Royal Brompton with frightened calls.

NHS England has proposed stopping congenital heart surgery operations at the Royal Brompton as part of a nationwide reduction intended to improve safety by ensuring that surgeons operate on at least 125 patients each a year.

The Brompton performed 512 congenital heart disease operations and 544 catheter procedures on children and adults in 2014/15, more than any of the 12 other NHS trusts performing such work.

The annual Nicor study from University College London found the Brompton was second only to Great Ormond Street Hospital for the best survival rates, with 98.3 per cent of patients alive 30 days after the procedure.

A hospital spokesman said: "Since NHS England made its announcement, our clinical teams have been inundated with calls from patients and parents who are panicked by the idea that their care may be relocated to another, unnamed hospital.

"They are unable to understand how a centre that is the biggest and one of the best performing would be threatened in this way. We have reassured them that, as ever, we will do everything in our power to protect them now and in the future."

Robert Craig, chief operating officer at Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust, has issued a hard-hitting statement in response to NHS England's announcement.

Mr Craig said: "We find NHS England's stated intention extraordinary. We are, however, reassured to see that the idea of removing congenital heart disease services from Royal Brompton is 'subject to consultation with relevant Trusts and, if appropriate, the wider public'. We fail to see how any logical review of the facts will come to the same conclusion as this panel.

"While we understand the motivation of commissioners to show progress is being made with congenital heart disease services, threatening to withdraw services from one of the largest and most successful centres in the country seems an absurd approach.

"Teams at Royal Brompton Hospital carried out more congenital heart disease (CHD) procedures last year than any other centre in the country.

"For the past ten years, our experts have undertaken over 500 congenital surgical operations each year – paediatric and adult – and during this time our results have met or exceeded all the standards defined by the regulators. Since 2009 we have consistently been one of the five best-performing centres in terms of mortality rates.

"We are very concerned about where alternative capacity in other hospitals could be found if this ill-conceived proposal were to proceed and are surprised that this information has not been made available already."

Whitney hopes for chorus of approval

BY LWN REPORTER
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SOHO singer Whitney Martins is hoping to bring the national beauty crown back to London this week when she represents the capital at the Miss England contest.

The 24-year-old Miss London will be vying for the title against 49 other beauty queens at the grand final in Southport on Thursday.

Whitney, the Greenwich girl who sings and dances at the London Cabaret Club and at Soho's Archer Street cocktail bar, has been tipped for the top after winning the Miss London competition in May.

"Whitney's edge over the other finalists on the night was her stage presence," said Miss London organiser Fay Hill. "She has what I call a 'London girl attitude'.

"I was looking for someone who ticked all of the boxes and Whitney is it. Beauty aside, I believe her personality is going to be a big success factor for her in Miss England. She has 100 per cent the right attitude."

Whitney, who took her first dance classes at the age of two and who now speaks four languages, is hoping that winning Miss England will open doors for her to achieve her ambition to break into musicals and TV.

"My aim is to become a star of the West End and Broadway and I've been working towards that since I appeared in my first show, a production of *Annie*, when I was five years old," she said.

"I would also like to break into reality TV, it would be a dream to get a part in a show like *Made In Chelsea*."

For a national final, Whitney and the other contenders have to appear to a dress that they have made themselves out of recycled materials.

"I've made my dress out of cling-film, bubble-wrap and newspaper cuttings. The news is going to be all over me and I hope to be all over the news," she said.

Londoners can help Whitney win the Miss England crown – the big step to entering the Miss World contest – by texting in the public vote which will contribute to the judges' final decision.

To vote Whitney, text MISS ENGLAND50 TO 63333. Texts cost 50p plus your standard network rate.

Whitney Martins is hoping to bring the national beauty crown back to London

Mayor's Oxford Street vehicle ban on the way

LONDON Mayor Sadiq Khan is to order a ban on all vehicles from Oxford Street and keep his election promise to turn it into "a tree-lined shoppers' paradise", *writes Geoff Baker*.

The Mayor has told Valerie Shawcross, his deputy mayor for transport, that he wants to see the capital's most-polluted street bus-free and taxi-free within four years.

Mayor Khan, who suffers from asthma brought about by London's extreme pollution – which kills around 10,000 people each year – is determined to realise his dream of making the city the cleanest and greenest in Europe and he is keeping the pledge made in his mayoral election manifesto.

He is starting the green dream by moving to ban the 270 buses which daily travel from Marble Arch to Tottenham Court Road.

Valerie Shawcross has told the London Assembly that the work to pedestrianise Oxford Street will be carried out in two stages. First, all vehicles will be banned from Oxford Circus to Tottenham Court Road. In the second stage, vehicles will be barred from driving from Oxford Street to Selfridges.

The first step is expected to be a ban on all car which are currently allowed to use Oxford Street on Sundays.

Besides paving over the street, the Mayor intends to make it a much more pleasant place to shop and breathe – with hundreds of trees lining Oxford Street and the planting of many flowerbeds and shrubs, a move that is expected to significantly boost the number of shoppers.

The move should come as no surprise to Oxford Street traders as Sadiq Khan spelled out his intentions when he was running to become Mayor.

He said: "Oxford Street is one of our city's iconic attractions – our most important shopping street, and one to which millions of Londoners and visitors flock each year.

"But as a Londoner, I'm ashamed that it's also one of the most polluted roads in the world – where illegal and dangerous levels of air pollution are the norm. That is bad for London and catastrophic for Londoners health. And I worry that unless things change, in future Oxford Street could lose out to competition from inside and outside the UK.

"It could be so much better – for Londoners, for tourists and for our economy. We have the opportunity to create one of the world's best public spaces, and as Mayor that is what I'd set out to do.

"It won't be easy but it will be worthwhile. And that's why I will make pedestrianising Oxford Street, and turning it into a tree lined shoppers paradise, a major project for Transport for London.

"A greener future is central to my vision for London, to the kind of city I want my children to live in. I want, for all of our children, a city in which the air is clean, green space is accessible. I will start by bringing back car-free weekends, before moving towards full pedestrianisation.

"Our eventual ambition should be turning one of the world's most polluted streets into one of the world's finest public spaces – a tree lined avenue from Tottenham Court Road to Marble Arch."

Writing for you every week, London's most outspoken entrepreneur

Charlie pipes up!

The right choice to lead us back to sanity

BUSINESSES, large or small, start-ups or multi-nationals have nothing to fear from Theresa May's Premiership.

She is a pragmatist with a Treasury background, who has held a dozen cabinet and shadow-cabinet posts on her rise to Number 10 and, who I believe first and foremost, understands the importance of delivering the conditions that UK PLC needs to thrive.

She was the sane 'last woman standing' in a soap opera that must stop now, so we can get on with the job of returning the economy to the state and standing it had before the fateful EU membership referendum.

For me, Theresa May stands for continuity of government.

Evidence of this is already clear to see as she has moved quickly to appoint a mixture of ministers from both sides of the philosophical device, including Phillip Hammond, Amber Rudd, David Davis and even bringing Boris back in her first cabinet.

I am impressed with the creation of a combined business and energy department that will help focus on the industrial strengths of this country and drive innovation and technical expertise that will be envy of the world.

I am confident that once the dust settles there will be the same dedication under Mrs May to securing the promised three million apprentices in this current parliamentary term.

And I do not have any fears that her vast experience as Home Secretary and in the Treasury will be anything but an advantage to the UK, when it comes to walking the inevitable tightrope between the demands of the skills gap at the core of the economy, and those of the vehement anti-immigration activists on the right.

This is also a good opportunity to praise the work of the former Prime Minister, David Cameron.

When he came to power in the dark days of 2010 the country was in a terrible place. Mired in recession he, along with his faithful Chancellor George Osborne, took some bold decisions that dug us out of a huge economic hole.

He introduced some hard and unpopular measures on spending, rather than continuing to borrow more and more to win short-term popularity. And, like Margaret Thatcher after her 1979 election victory, Mr Cameron placed his faith in some of the basic values that underpin the Conservative Party, trusting that if he gave businesses, especially small enterprises, a little encouragement they would repay his confidence with dividends that would drag the economy out of recession.

And just like those of us in business who count ourselves as 'Thatcher's Children' a new generation of small businesses and entrepreneurs rose up in their hundreds of thousands, set their stalls out, marketed their products and services, employed people and paid taxes. Between 2010 and 2015 760,000 new businesses were founded ensuring Britain had a record number of 5.2 million small firms.

Throughout his political career, first as leader of the opposition, then as Prime Minister under coalition conditions, David Cameron did the best for his country, often at personal and political cost to himself, and for me that elevates him way beyond being merely a successful politician, and into the realm of true statesman.

Even during the post-referendum vote furore he kept his head. Devastated as he must have been on June 24, Mr Cameron could have immediately triggered Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, as Boris, Gove, Farage, Leadsom et al would have liked.

But instead he refused, and walked swiftly away from the office he had devoted so much of his live to winning.

And in that final act, by rejecting petulance, or any thoughts of hanging on for personal gratification, David Cameron saw off his enemies for the good of the nation, and set the stage for Theresa May to lead us back to sanity.

Views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of this newspaper

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March and rally defies forces of hate

BY JACK DIXON
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DEFIANT Londoners condemned the "dark forces" of intolerance and discrimination as thousands marched through the streets of Hammersmith in a powerful demonstration of unity following a string of racist attacks.

People from all corners of the community waved banners and placards as they marched from Shepherd's Bush Green to Ravenscourt Park on Sunday before joining a rally celebrating the borough's cultural diversity.

The 'Unity Day' followed a series of racist and xenophobic incidents sparked by last month's vote to leave the European Union.

Hammersmith became the focal point of the surge in hate crime after the Polish centre in King Street was painted with offensive graffiti days after the referendum.

It was a very different picture in Ravenscourt Park, however, as marchers united to reject the abuse aimed at religious, ethnic and cultural minorities.

Wiktor Moszczynski, a committee member at the Polish Social and Cultural Association, was among several community leaders who spoke out against intolerance during the event.

"The outrageous slogan that was reproduced was a painful shock not only for Poles but for local residents in Hammersmith," he said.

"But what happened to us was not an isolated incident. The Brexit vote seemed to have released in some Leave voters a sense of empowerment to isolate and intimidate.

"What we must recognise is that this is not just aimed at Poles in the community but at all religious and ethnic minorities. Whatever our nationality, race or religion we must not let them divide us."

Hammersmith and Fulham council organised the Unity Day celebration following a reported 500 per cent increase in hate crime nationally since the referendum.

Council leader Stephen Cowan said people in Hammersmith had been among those targeted with vile abuse.

"In recent weeks too many of our friends and neighbours have been confronted by racist and xenophobic incidents: people asked why they are still here, told to go home, told we voted for you to leave and worse," he said. "That is just not the country we are and it certainly is not the country we are going to become."

Dancers from the Bhavan Centre in West Kensington, above left, entertained the marchers. Above: Cllr Lisa Homan and Andy Slaughter MP add their weight to the occasion
Pictures: Jack Dixon

Kevin Lomas and Beata Wloadarczyk make their feelings known, above, while right: Mennatallah Khodel joins the march

Cllr Cowan led the 'march against racism' as a procession of hundreds walked from Shepherd's Bush Green to Ravenscourt Park on Sunday morning. People carried signs reading 'One Race Human Race' and 'Let's All Feel At Home' as they chanted 'Hope Not Hate'.

Hammersmith MP Andy Slaughter, who campaigned for Remain during the referendum, said the Leave vote had unleashed "dark forces".

"I know that people who commit such despicable acts are not only unrepresentative of the wider community but are a tiny minority," he said.

"But they have been emboldened by the Brexit vote. They think their abhorrent views can now be freely expressed as we see every day on social media as well as in the street and on public transport. So we have a job to do. The decent and often silent majority, the people who get on with their lives living in peace and harmony with their neighbours: now we have a duty to speak out. To speak out for what are true British values of internationalism, of compassion and empathy that transcends national borders."

The tone was one of celebration as speakers, including humanitarian campaigner Lord Alf Dubs, shared the stage with musicians and dancers from all corners of the borough.

Councillor Sue Fennimore, the council's cabinet member for social inclusion, underlined the borough's commitment to ensuring Hammersmith and Fulham is a home for all cultures.

"We live in challenging times but it is crucial that we treat each other with dignity and respect," she added.

"Whether you are young or old, black or white, straight, gay or transgender, whichever part of Hammersmith and Fulham you live in, work in or socialise in, this borough is your home. A home that is compassionate and caring, that is inclusive and safe and a home that will not tolerate hate and division."

Home of television heritage looks forward to new location

DEVELOPERS are on course to open the new Riverside Studios and Queen's Wharf complex in early 2018.

VIP guests were given a virtual tour of the ambitious new development as the halfway stage of the build was marked last week.

The historic television studio is moving into its new home overlooking the Thames and Hammersmith Bridge, alongside more than 160 luxury apartments as part of the Queen's Wharf redevelopment.

A computer-generated image of the Queen's Wharf development alongside Hammersmith Bridge

Riverside will benefit from three brand new studio spaces and a basement cinema, as well as a smaller screening room and bars.

As the home of many legendary television programmes, films and stage shows, the studio is one of the gems of Hammersmith and Fulham's artistic heritage.

It was the filming location for *Hancock's Half Hour*, *Dixon of Dock Green* and early episodes of *Doctor Who*, as well as more recently *TFI Friday* and *Top of the Pops*.

William Burdett-Coutts, artistic director at the Riverside Trust, said: "We were recently voted the most popular venue in Hammersmith in a *Time Out* feature and our aim is to make sure we become that again."

Leighton's masterpiece comes home

LEIGHTON House Museum has announced its exhibition programme for 2016 – 2017, bringing two prestigious international exhibitions to the unique setting of Frederic Leighton's 'House Beautiful' in Kensington.

For the first time since it left for exhibition at the Royal Academy in 1895, *Flaming June: A Masterpiece Comes Home* (November 4 to April 2) brings back this iconic work of 19th century British art to the house in which it was painted and reunites it with the other pictures shown by Leighton in that year – his final submission, which were made only months before his death in January 1896.

This will be followed by *Alma-Tadema: At Home in Antiquity* (July 7 to October 29). The largest exhibition about Leighton's contemporary, Lawrence Alma-Tadema to be shown in London since 1913, *At Home in Antiquity* is organised by the Fries Museum, The Netherlands (the artist's home town) and comes to London following exhibition at the Belvedere, Vienna – bringing over 100 works to Leighton House Museum as the only UK venue for the show.

Frederic, Lord Leighton (1830-96), was one of the pre-eminent artists of his day. President of the Royal Academy from 1878 to 1896, he achieved great fame and influence as a figurehead for art in late Victorian society; a period when art enjoyed unprecedented public interest and appreciation.

Flaming June: A Masterpiece Comes Home is a landmark exhibition for the Leighton House Museum, returning Leighton's most famous and celebrated work to Leighton House from the Ponce Museum of Art in Puerto Rico

Mayor says: It's not good enough to leave London's EU citizens in limbo

BY GEOFF BAKER
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LONDON Mayor Sadiq Khan is calling for the Prime Minister to promise that EU nationals now living in London can stay in the capital after Britain pulls out of Europe.

In the wake of the referendum vote Mayor Khan met with ambassadors from across the continent last week to reassure them that EU nationals who live in the capital will always be welcome.

"London is home to around one million EU nationals, who make a huge contribution to the city – working hard, paying taxes and playing a major role in civic and cultural life," said the Mayor's spokesman.

"The Mayor told ambassadors and senior dignitaries representing the 10 European Union countries with the largest number of nationals living in London that they will continue to play a valuable role in the city. He also reassured ambassadors that, following the rise in reports of racist or xenophobic abuse in the capital since the EU referendum, he will not tolerate hate crimes of any form, anywhere in London.

Mayor Sadiq Khan wants guarantees for EU citizens working in London

"And he underlined his warning to Theresa May that she must not use the status of EU citizens in Britain as a bargaining chip in Brexit negotiations."

Mayor Khan said: "I invited European Ambassadors based here to City Hall to send a crystal-clear message that all EU citizens living in London – who make a huge contribution to our city - are very welcome here.

"It is simply not good enough to leave EU citizens in London in limbo. The irresponsible position taken by some politicians has caused unnecessary uncertainty and anxiety amongst communities in London – you cannot play politics with people's lives.

"London is still a decent and open-minded city and we will not stand for millions of Londoners being used as a bargaining tool.

"I'm calling on Theresa May to say very clearly now that she will guarantee that EU citizens who were living here before the referendum can remain.

"We must remember that we are talking about many mothers, fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers of British children born and growing up in London. They are our neighbours, colleagues and fellow Londoners – valued members of our local communities who make a vital contribution to our civil and cultural life. They deserve better.

"I also wanted to reassure European Ambassadors that we are doing everything we can to stamp out the shocking rise in hate crime over the last few weeks. I've agreed with the police that we will have a zero-tolerance approach to hate crime and the full force of the law will be used to catch and punish any perpetrators."

Enrique Ojeda, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Spain, said: "We welcome the Mayor's initiative and will fully cooperate with him and all the national, regional and local authorities to ensure that no xenophobic actions are allowed.

"London is a great city and thousands of Spaniards work or study here, being part of its vibrant community. They feel at home and that is how it should remain. Their well-being is a priority for the Spanish Embassy, and that's why we are very grateful to the Mayor of London."

Dariusz Łaska, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Poland, said: "We were shocked by the recent incidents of xenophobic abuse directed against the Polish community and other EU nationals. We welcome the Mayor's pledge to combat and prevent hate crime as well as to campaign for the right to remain for all EU nationals, including the 200,000 Poles who live and work in the capital."

Pasquale Q. Terracciano, Ambassador of Italy, said: "Around 350,000 Italians live and work in London, contributing to the prosperity of this city."

Sylvie Bermann, Ambassador of France, said: "I am grateful to the Mayor of London for signalling the very important contribution of European citizens to London, a contribution which would be very hard to replace."

Berry fights for renters

A LEADING Green Party campaigner has launched a London-wide survey to find out more about the problems faced by private renters in the capital.

London Assembly Member Sian Berry is polling Londoners on their difficulties with costs, contracts and letting agents, as well as maintenance and repairs.

Ms Berry, who ran as the Green Party candidate for Mayor of London earlier this year, has floated the idea of creating a "union of tenants" working together to improve their rights.

"My flat's toilet is never properly fixed by my landlord and has just broken again," she said. "I've shelled out more than half my pay in rent and lived in six different houses and flats since I moved to London.

"If you are – or have ever been – a private renter in London, please take three minutes to fill in my Big Renters Survey. Tell me about your repair nightmares, how you have been treated by landlords and letting agents, and how you think a renters union could help."

The survey can be found at *https://sianberry.typeform.com/to/Hu3JSc*

Dumped pets holiday alert

HEARTLESS pet owners are being urged not to dump their cats and dogs before jetting off on holiday this summer.

The RSPCA warns that trips abroad are one of the main factors behind a surge in abandoned pets during the months of July and August.

It is bracing itself for a peak in animal admissions over the next few weeks and has urged Londoners not to give up on their furry friends.

A total of 770 abandoned animals were collected by the RSPCA in Greater London last year – although this was down by almost half compared to 2014.

RSPCA Superintendent Simon Osborne said: "If pet owners are going away on holiday we would urge them to make sure their pet is cared for by asking friends or family to care for them, call a pet-sitter or take them to a licensed boarding establishment."

Showcase for migrant firms

LONDON will host its first 'Migrant Business Show' next week in a bid to boost the entrepreneurial prospects of foreign workers in the capital.

The exhibition is being organised by Rafael dos Santos, a Brazilian property entrepreneur who left a job with Microsoft to move to London in 2002. Mr dos Santos said the lack of an established network and support funding were the key obstacles preventing migrants from starting businesses in the city.

Dozens of entrepreneurs are expected to showcase their trades at the show, which takes place at the mi-HUB venue in Whitechapel next Wednesday, July 27. The venue, yet to be officially opened, will house 150 desks in a refurbished office in Batty Street, close to Aldgate East station.

Terror review follows outrage in Nice

BY GEOFF BAKER
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AS a top security expert has warned that the Nice truck attack is likely to be copied in London, Mayor Sadiq Khan has ordered an urgent terror review to determine whether more steel and concrete car-bomb barriers need to be put in key areas around the capital.

Police and security experts have been told to investigate whether barriers like those along Whitehall and outside Parliament now need to installed around the city which could be at risk of a similar attack to the truck terror atrocity which killed 84 people in France last week.

After declaring that the capital would "stand united" with France and insisting that the "poisonous and twisted" IS terrorists would be defeated, Mayor Khan said: "I reassure all Londoners that we are reviewing our own safety measures in light of this attack and that I and the Metropolitan Police Commissioner will do everything possible to keep Londoners safe."

A leading security analyst has warned that the attack in Nice, in which a French-Tunisian named as Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel deliberately drove a truck into crowds celebrating Bastille Day, is set to be copied in Britain.

Raffaello Pantucci, international security expert for the Royal United Services Institute, said the Nice attack is likely to inspire Islamist extremists to mount copycat attempts.

He said: "If you think about the methodology of this attack it could easily happen in the UK.

"What's always very depressing about terrorist attacks is that after an approach has proven to be so successful others will draw inspiration from it.

"Now people need to think about this as a reality that may happen. This fact has already been raised but we haven't seen it succeed on such a scale until now.

"We will now see people looking to emulate it, whereas previously they will have been looking in another direction."

Sylvie-Agnès Bermann, the French Ambassador, speaks outside the French Embassy in light of the terror attack in Nice. On Friday morning two armed policemen were drafted in to stand outside the embassy as an extra security measure. Picture: SWNS

He added: "We appear to be looking at someone who was known to authorities through a criminal lens rather than a terrorist one.

"There are reports that some of the weapons he had were fake, which suggests he possibly didn't have access to the wider terrorist networks.

"If we think about the basic elements that were involved this incident, a truck and a handgun and a set of fake weapons, this is all equipment that is fairly easy to obtain.

"We have seen other incidences like this where it has been attempted, but it has never been as horribly successful in this scale. IS have been pushing out an omnidirectional message which says anyone can do anything anywhere and that can be part of an attack.

"They're saying you don't need to do something large and complicated, just do something and whatever it is just do something with whatever weapons are available.

"Trucks are something that are very readily available and it's very difficult to police that side of it.

"We're dealing with people who are deciding to do something in a very spur of the moment way and not telling anyone else about it and using the weapons around them.

"After these kind of attacks we will see other people who think 'Oh well, maybe now is a good time to launch something'."

Sadiq Khan ordered a review of security which will cause police, City Hall and other security experts to examine whether tough new measures are needed.

Special barriers have already been put up along Whitehall and outside Parliament to stop a lorry-bomb terror strike. But the review will probe whether more barriers and other security protection are needed in other parts of the capital. Its findings will feed into the wider terror preparedness review, which is being headed by Lord Toby Harris of Haringey, which Mr Khan announced on taking office.

The Mayor said: "My deepest sympathies are with the people of Nice – particularly with those who are injured, and the families and friends of those who were killed.

"This was a horrific and unspeakable act of terror on a day of celebration and hope for the French people, who have suffered so much pain in recent times.

"Londoners today stand united with Nice and all of France in our grief."

Mr Khan, the first Muslim mayor of a western capital, added: "We are also united in our determination to root out and defeat the sick and evil individuals who have tried to divide us with this cowardly act of terror.

"They will not win. Not in France. Not in London. Not anywhere. We will defeat their poisonous, twisted ideology."

Objectors claim that funfair is unlawful

COUNCIL bosses have dismissed claims that a funfair due to take place in Shepherd's Bush next week would be "unlawful" after conservationists criticised the plans.

The two-week 'Ultimate Funfair' on Shepherd's Bush Green kicks off on Friday July 22 and runs until Sunday August 7, including a series of traditional fairground rides and attractions.

But Hammersmith and Fulham council was forced to defend its decision to allow the funfair after a campaign group challenged the move.

Kate Ashbrook, general secretary of the Open Spaces Society, said: "The society is not against people having fun on open space, but clearly this funfair is on too great a scale, will cause too much damage and is for too long a period. This is an unacceptable use of this small, much-loved green space."

The society claimed the council should have sought ministerial consent before permitting the funfair but town hall chiefs cited a recent change in the law following a High Court case regarding the use of Finsbury Park to stage the Wireless music festival.

Ms Ashbrook suggested the Finsbury Park decision would be challenged in the Court of Appeal.

Points of view

BY SYED KAMALL

AS a London MEP, I had a front row seat for the response to our referendum result in Brussels last month.

Being leader of the third largest of the eight pan-EU political groups in the European Parliament provided plenty of opportunity to offer my own reaction to the media circus.

While EU enthusiasts spoke of punishing Britain and tried to bully us into starting the departure process immediately, I tried to offer a voice of calm and reassurance. I spoke of the need for cool heads and for patient, purposeful negotiation to ensure that both Britain and the EU reach a deal in both our long-term interest. Not the easiest or the fastest, but the best.

That negotiation must recognise that EU free movement played a part in many people's voting decision. Of course London benefits from immigration. It is far too easy to blame those working in jobs that British people either don't want or lack the skills to perform. Globalisation makes migration both unavoidable and economically healthy, but politicians must address legitimate concerns of the public.

Much has been made of London voting Remain against the national trend. One take on that has been that provincial folk lack the cosmopolitan understanding and wisdom of Londoners. Another interpretation might be that we Londoners are out of touch with the rest of the country and have failed to grasp its difficulties or its mood.

In London, immigration means more cab drivers, nannies, cleaners, decorators and doctors, says Syed Kamall MEP

In London, immigration means more cab drivers, nannies, cleaners, decorators and doctors. In other places and to other people it means full surgeries, crowded classrooms, low wages, language problems and pressure on housing.

I love the vibrancy and enterprise of London's cultural crucible, but we cannot, should not, block our ears to the voice of the nation as a whole just because we are privileged to live in its exciting capital.

Some voted Leave since they wanted less immigration while many others wanted a controlled but fair immigration system, ending passport discrimination against our relatives, friends and business partners from non-EU countries. Between the extremes of closed borders and completely open borders, we should be looking for a controlled but fair immigration system that ends this discrimination against 6.5 billion non-EU passport holders.

Among many in Brussels, free movement is seen to have a quasi-religious and unbreakable link to access the single market. That is why we should enter negotiations when they start on the basis of seeking a UK-EU trade agreement.

A deal on goods should be straightforward as the UK has a record trade deficit with the EU, widening to £23.9 billion in the first three months of 2016.

On services, governments in Berlin and Paris will be under pressure from financial districts of Frankfurt and Paris to reduce London's role as the global financial centre. But watch out for a trade-off on other areas to protect London. This might involve support for EU programmes on research and innovation, student exchange, maintaining our participation in the European Investment Bank, aid to new EU states, or perhaps co-operating and offering assets for EU operations of mutual interest, such as protecting the EU's borders.

No doubt the negotiation will be arduous and lengthy. The outcome will have to be approved by the European Parliament and will face the usual vested interests within the EU that stand in the way of open trade.

So while we must work on trade with the EU, in the meantime we must also work on opening trade with the rest of the world.

We must not delay in beginning talks with as many countries and trade blocs as possible. However, we must never forget that trade is not between countries, it is between individual people and businesses in one country with people and businesses in another for mutual benefit. Governments can either facilitate trade or get in the way in the form of tariff and non-tariff barriers.

Here in London and across Britain we should think more about how we equip our economy with skills and infrastructure to remain a global leader, with Chinese and other languages becoming a major fixture of our school curricula, and airport capacity being expanded ambitiously.

We face many challenges, but my father, who used to drive the 73 bus, always told me people could achieve anything if they believed in themselves and worked hard.

We now owe it to people in every corner of Britain to deliver the new relationship with the EU that they voted for and to ensure that we in the UK become good neighbours as we cease to be reluctant tenants.

Syed Kamall is the Conservative MEP for London. He was born and brought up in London and was elected to the European Parliament in 2005, and since 2013 has been Leader of the Conservatives there. He campaigned for Brexit

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Westminster & Pimlico NEWS — pick up points

Sainsbury's Store	Melbourne Avenue	West Ealing	W13 9BZ
Tesco Metro	94 Church Street	Paddington	NW8 8EX
Tesco Classic Metro	17-25 Regent Street	London	SW1Y 4LR
Sainsbury's Store	38 Stratton Street	Mayfair	W1J 8LT
Sainsbury's Store	15-17 Tottenham Court Road	Central London	W1T 1BJ
Co-op	504-506 Harrow Road	Paddington	W9 3QA
Tesco Classic Metro	22-25 Bedford Street	London	WC2E 9EQ
Co-op	Golden Cross House	London	WC2R 0RG
Notting Hill Gate Library	1 Pembridge Square	Notting Hill	W2 4EW
Kensal Library	20 Golborne Road		W10 5PF
Coach & Horses Pub	23 Greek Street	Soho	W1D 5DH
Pimlico Library	Lupus Street	Pimlico	SW1V 3EY

Kensington & Chelsea NEWS — pick up points

Kensington Central Library	Philimore Walk	Kensington	W8 7RX
North Kensington Library	108 Ladbroke Grove	Kensington	W11 1PZ
Brompton Library	210 Old Brompton Road	London	SW5 0BS
The Tabernacle, Notting Hill	35 Powis Square	Notting Hill	W11 2AY
Chelsea Library	Chelsea Old Town Hall	Chelsea	SW3 5EZ
Chelsea Sports Centre	Chelsea Manor Street	Chelsea	SW3 5PL
Avonmore Lib. & Neighbourhood Ctr	North End Crescent		W14 8TG

Fulham Chronicle — pick up points

Fulham Library	598 Fulham Road	SW6 5NX

Hammersmith CHRONICLE — pick up points

The Grove Neighbourhood Centre	7 Bradmore Park Road	Hammersmith	W6 0DT
Hammersmith Library	Shepherd's Bush Road		W6 7AT

Shepherd's Bush CHRONICLE — pick up points

Westfield Library	6 Wood Lane	W12 7BF
Askew Road Library	87-91 Askew Road	W12 9AS

LETTERS

Mayor must prioritise the disabled

NOW the dust has settled on Sadiq Khan's victory in this year's London Mayoral elections, we can begin to consider how his victory will affect disabled people.

The Mayor campaigned to increase step-free access on public transport, and also improve staffing in stations to understand the needs of those with disabilities.

These moves are welcomed by The British Polio Fellowship. Many of our members live with Post Polio Syndrome (PPS), a condition which means many use wheelchairs or need assistance with accessibility. There are many issues facing people with disabilities in London – indeed, we have recently learned that Tube journeys take wheelchair users four times longer.

The Mayor also promised to increase the amount of accessible housing available, make all City Hall apprenticeships accessible, and to work with businesses to help train young disabled people. I now look forward to seeing an improvement in the lives of those with PPS and all disabled people.

With much uncertainty following the recent 'Brexit' vote, I urge the Mayor's Office to continue to place disability issues at the heart of all they do, and continue to try and improve London for people with disabilities, irrespective of any political turmoil going on.

If you would like more information about The British Polio Fellowship or need our support living with PPS, please visit *www.britishpolio.org.uk* or call 0800 043 1935.

The British Polio Fellowship is a charity dedicated to helping, supporting and empowering those in the UK living with the late effects of polio and Post Polio Syndrome (PPS).

It provides information, advocacy, welfare and support to enable its members to live full independent and integrated lives and works to develop worldwide alliances with other polio and post polio groups for the mutual benefit of its members.

Further information about the British Polio Fellowship and details on how to make a donation can be found at *www.britishpolio.org.uk* or by calling 0800 043 1935

■ Post Polio Syndrome (PPS) is a neurological condition which can occur in up to 80 per cent of those who have had polio. It is estimated that around 120,000 people in the UK are living with PPS today.

There is no specific cure for PPS, but properly managed it may stabilise or only progress slowly and lessen the cost on the NHS whilst increasing the quality of life of those affected.

Ted Hill MBE
Chief executive
The British Polio Fellowship

Legacy of learning from inspirational boss

BY LWN REPORTER
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Helen Stokes was rated one of the top female chief executives

AN award-winning businesswoman described by colleagues as a "true inspiration" is to have a scholarship set up in her name after she took her own life.

Helen Stokes, 44, was one of only a handful of female chief executives in Britain, and hailed as one of the top stars in the creative industry.

She rose to be managing director of West End-based marketing and creative recruiter Major Players despite battling with long-term alcoholism and depression.

Miss Stokes, originally from Chichester in West Sussex, was found dead in her home in Hackney, east London, on March 15 this year, Poplar Coroner's Court heard.

She had struggled with alcoholism since her teenage years but had been seeking treatment for her dependency, as well as ongoing mental health issues in the months prior to her death, the hearing was told.

Her ex-partner, Ruth Jones, had been house sitting when Helen came home, "smelling of alcohol," the inquest heard.

In a statement to police, she said: "She may have been asleep on the sofa.

"I said 'night Helen' at 11pm and I'm not sure if she replied. I woke up at 7am and had a shower. I checked in Helen's room to see if she was in bed, checked the bathroom and she wasn't there, and went downstairs at about 7.45am. I saw Helen hanging from the ceiling. I screamed and ran to the next door neighbours."

The neighbour advised Ms Jones to call 999, who then advised her to cut Miss Stokes down, check her pulse, and gave advice on giving mouth to mouth.

The ambulance and police arrived quickly, and it was a paramedic who confirmed Miss Stokes was dead.

Ms Jones said: "Helen had attempted suicide before, about three to four weeks ago. She had marks on her neck and cuts on her wrists, she said she got scared and didn't go through with it. She had said her 'life wasn't worth living' and had been mentioning suicide for months."

Miss Stokes went to a GP last October and received a prescription for the anti-depressant Citalopram and sleeping tablets. By November she was seeing a psychotherapist three times a week, the inquest heard.

Psychotherapist Dr Maria Luca treated her for severe anxiety and trauma.

Miss Stokes spoke of her suicidal thoughts and was using alcohol to help her sleep despite being on antidepressants, the inquest heard.

But on December 29, Dr Luca received a phone call from a worried friend of Miss Stokes, who was scared she was at risk of suicide.

A month later, Miss Stokes cancelled two of her psychotherapy appointments and in February took an overdose – but decided not to go through with it and made herself sick, the inquest heard.

Miss Stokes believed she had narcissistic personality disorder and had a phone consultation with her psychotherapist as she felt low and wanted to look at underlying issues, the hearing was told.

Dr Luca confirmed her last contact with her was on February 22, when she decided to seek further treatment, as she was suffering from 'chronic self neglect'.

Dr Luca read in a statement: "She felt ashamed of her behaviour and felt she deserved to die. She said there was nothing I or anyone could do to help her."

She was then admitted to The Priory where she spent two weeks receiving treatment for alcohol dependency syndrome, the inquest heard.

Dr Neil Brener, Consultant Psychiatrist at The Priory, said: "She had a long history of alcohol abuse. She had been put on medication and didn't like it.

"She had been drinking since the age of 17, and by this point was drinking four pints a day and smoking 20 cigarettes, so was admitted to the addiction treatment programme. She was quite disruptive in group sessions, due to her disruptive behaviour it was inappropriate for her to stay."

Helen left The Priory after being offered further treatment in the United States.

Dr Brener added: "I felt that unless she was going to address her alcohol issues, she wasn't going to address anything else in her life - I don't think she understood that."

Coroner Dr William Dolman said the cause of death was suspension by ligature.

He added: "Alcohol must have affected her judgement.

"Her problems go back to her alcoholism and breakdown of relationship and the fact she felt she couldn't cope. It was quite clear on more than one occasion that she had made attempts on her own life."

A toxicology report confirmed there were no drugs or alcohol in Helen's system at the time of her death.

Dr Dolman added: "My conclusion is a verdict of suicide when the balance of her mind was disturbed.

"I offer my sympathy for Helen, who had been fighting her demons for a long time. It must have been very hard for everyone involved.

"There must have been very happy times as well, and I am sure you will remember those."

Her friends and former colleagues have since raised £5,000 to create the Helen Stokes Internship Scholarship for a young female creative talent to live in London and get on the first rung of the ladder.

Friend and former colleague Ali Hanan said: "Helen was one of the most inspirational women in business in the UK.

"She believed in helping women get ahead in their careers. Women make up 24 per cent of creative departments; few make it to leadership roles.

"She was a true inspiration to everyone who knew her. And an incredible role model.

"As one of the leading UK women in business, she would have wanted to help more young talent on to the first rung of their career ladders."

TV chef's ex-wife cleared of assault

CELEBRITY chef Marco Pierre White's ex-wife has been cleared of attacking her two sons when they failed to appear in court, one complaining he had a hangover.

Matilde Conejero, 51, was accused of attacking *Celebrity Big Brother* contestant Marco Junior, 21, and his brother Luciano, 22, at the flat they share in Chiswick.

She was alleged to have pulled Marco Junior's hair and kicked him in the groin, before biting Luciano's hand on September 20 last year.

But the case against Conejero, appearing under the name White, was dismissed at Uxbridge Magistrates Court last week after the Crown failed to provide evidence.

She faced two counts of common assault by beating.

Both sons failed to show up for the trial, after Marco Junior told police he was "too hungover" to attend after going to a party the night before, while Luciano could not be traced.

District Judge Deborah Wright dismissed the case.

Conejero, also known as Mati, fought back tears as the case was thrown out.

Wearing a blue patterned scarf and black short sleeved shirt, she declined to comment afterwards.

A row broke out outside the block of flats on September 20 last year, and Conejero accused Marco Junior of being a "junkie", the court heard.

Prosecutor Katie Weiss said: "There was an argument. She was saying that one of them, Marco, 'you are a f****** loser, you are a junkie'."

Capital faces an invasion by monster

LONDON landmarks are being overrun by monsters thanks to mega-hit game Pokemon Go, including a 'racist' beast found inside Buckingham Palace.

Thousands of Londoners are already playing the smash Nintendo game, that allows users to catch Pokemon that appear randomly across the world, despite it not being officially available in the UK.

But last Wednesday, one of the most controversial Pokemon was found wandering around the inside of Buckingham Palace.

Notorious black-faced Pokemon Jynx was spotted inside the gates, not far from members of the Queen's Guard.

Despite changing the colour of the psychic Pokemon from black to purple, Game Freak's character development was heavily criticised for the character's appearance, because it looks like it has a black face.

Gaming website IGN labelled the Pokemon a "transvestite midget in racially offensive make-up".

Squirtle, Charmander and Bulbasaur were also spotted near the Queen's London residence.

Gamer Chirag, 23, from Cobham, was outside the Palace on a trip with his family, but could not resist the opportunity to snap some of the creatures.

He said: "I'm enjoying it, there are a lot more people playing it than I expected.

"We've already got a WhatsApp group for it and I think I'm the youngest one in it – the oldest is about 35.

"I've caught 26 in two days and I've played the least out of my friends."

The arrival of mobile game Pokemon Go has sent fans across the city wild, spotting Pokemon in an array of unusual locations – despite not yet having been officially released here.

Boys rescued from Thames

A GROUP of children were moments away from tragedy when they tried to take an inflatable dingy onto the River Thames.

The RNLI launched a lifeboat after reports came in about a group of 12-year-old boys trying to launch a boat next to the Fuller's Brewery in Chiswick.

Fortunately for the boys, they had not yet embarked on their treacherous adventure when the crews arrived.

RNLI Helmsman Gary Tiller said: "Had they gone afloat in a tiny inflatable they would not have been able to control it and would have been swept away by the spring tide and then exposed to the risk of running into the many moored craft and other obstructions along the river."

Pimlico artist Julie Bloom brought a splash of colour to a south London gallery as she staged her first ever solo show. Inspired by the architecture of the capital, her latest collection featured a series of installations echoing the cityscapes and their relationship with the natural world. Now working from her studio in Chelsea, Ms Bloom was born in Nairobi and lived in Hong Kong before settling in Pimlico 19 years ago. The exhibition was held at Johnsons Picture Framing and Gallery in Battersea between Friday July 1 and Sunday July 3

Photographers told: don't encourage rich boy racers

BY LWN REPORTER
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POLICE are hoping to crack down on playboys driving their supercars dangerously in London by threatening photographers with fines.

With Ramadan now over, wealthy Arabs are expected to start arriving in London again for their summer holidays.

And this means the arrival of the world's flashiest and expensive supercars – with Bugattis, Ferraris, Paganis and Lamborghinis all expected to go on show.

The foreign playboys, along with British supercar owners, have been criticised in the past for driving recklessly around the expensive streets of Knightsbridge and causing a nuisance by revving their noisy engines.

Officers from the Met Police are now targeting the 'carparazzi', who assemble on the street and encourage people to show off their cars for the camera.

They are issuing Dispersal Orders which ban them from entering the Brompton and Hans Town wards with cameras for 48 hours.

Anyone who knowingly breaches a dispersal order could face a fine of up to £2,500 and a maximum three months in prison, according to the CPS.

Last Thursday evening, 13 dispersals were issued and seven fixed penalty notices were given for a variety of offences relating to inconsiderate motor vehicle use. It is not known how many of these were issued to photographers.

Car enthusiasts take pictures of the sport cars parked outside The Dochester Hotel, off Park Lane. Police are hoping to crack down on playboys driving their supercars dangerously in London by threatening photographers with fines Picture: SWNS

In a statement, the Met said: "Spectators who film and encourage drivers to commit even more reckless acts will also be covered by these powers."

Inspector Chris Downs, of Kensington and Chelsea Community Policing Team, said: "In previous years, there have been a large number of complaints during summer nights – especially at weekends – relating to anti-social behaviour and the late night noise nuisance caused by high-powered vehicles being driven in a reckless and aggressive manner.

"We are responding to these local concerns, and, since extremely rapid acceleration poses a particular danger to the public, we are determined to act before somebody is killed or seriously injured."

It is the latest attempt by the Met Police to combat supercar owners driving recklessly in Knightsbridge.

Last year, following numerous complaints from residents, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea introduced a Public Spaces Protection Order in Knightsbridge.

Motorists are now banned from revving their engine, rapidly accelerating, racing, performing stunts, sounding horns or causing obstructions.

They are also prohibited from leaving the engine of a stationary car running.

The PSPO came into place to deal with the "excessive level of noise nuisance, annoyance, danger or risk or harm or injury" caused by the drivers.

Motorists who breach the order face a maximum £1,000 fine or fixed penalty notice of £100.

One Knightsbridge resident welcomed the decision for the 'Carparazzi' to be issued with Dispersal Orders.

Panda Morgan-Thomas said: "We welcome this initiative by RBKC and the Police. There is already huge traffic congestion in the Knightsbridge area. There have been three serious road accidents during the last month.

"The advent of the supercar season always attracts a large number of carparazzi who are (usually) quite young enthusiasts who are keen to get the best shots of their favourite cars, often with little regard for their own safety.

"They gather in large groups on pavements and frequently in the middle of busy roads.

"It is only a matter of time before there is a serious accident involving one or more of them."

Teacher jailed for indecency

A FORMER teacher has been imprisoned for indecently assaulting pupils at two of his former schools more than 40 years ago.

Terence Back, 71, was found guilty of assaulting two 11-year-olds – a boy and a girl – and a seven-year-old girl in 1974.

He was interviewed in 2013 after a former student of Whitehall Junior School in Uxbridge made an allegation about Back that amounted to gross indecency and indecent assault.

Back denied the allegations, but a further witness was tracked and provided a witness account that bore similarities to the first account.

Two more victims were found at Kingsway Junior School in Watford, Hertfordshire – both with similar accounts of Back's behaviour.

He was arrested and charged in September last year, found guilty at trial in June, and yesterday slapped with a six-year sentence – two years for each of his victims.

Detective Constable Emma MacDonald of the Met's Child Abuse Investigation Team said: "This was a lengthy enquiry and the Crown Prosecution Service authorised numerous charges against Back in 2015.

"There were similarities in the accounts of the witnesses, pupils of Back's years apart who did not know each other and who attended different schools, miles apart. Although this was a protracted investigation, I wish to thank the witnesses for their full support. They have shown such bravery reliving painful memories to the team and at court.

"Giving evidence can be very daunting but witnesses are supported throughout the process. Even though these types of cases can take some time, police will persevere and try to bring the offender to court so justice is done.

"I hope that Back's conviction will help ease the painful memories of his victims."

Back was found not guilty of a count of gross indecency against a female aged seven years.

Family flees mansion fire

A FAMILY had to be evacuated from a multi-million pound Kensington mansion after a fire ripped through the basement.

The fire brigade was called to the mansion in The Boltons, reportedly Britain's second most expensive street, after calls saying a fire had broken out in the property's basement.

Crews from Fulham, Battersea, Wandsworth and Clapham station extinguished the blaze at around 2.30pm on Friday.

A London Fire Brigade spokesman said: "Two adults and two children were evacuated before we arrived and we've no reports of any injuries."

The average house price in The Boltons is a whopping £32.5 million, according to Zoopla.

An 18-bedroom mansion on the street went on sale two years ago for nearly £40 million.

In previous years, properties on the street have sold for in excess of £5,000 per sq ft.

Former residents of the exclusive SW10 street include Madonna and Jeffrey Archer.

Mark Hamill and Carrie Fisher were among the special guests as London's Excel Centre played host to one of the world's biggest Star Wars conventions last week. Thousands of fans packed out the venue during a three-day celebration of the blockbuster film franchise. Hamill and Fisher, who reprised their roles as Luke Skywalker and Princess Leia in last year's sequel The Force Awakens, were joined by Peter Mayhew (Chewbacca) and Anthony Daniels (C-3PO) for the event, which comes as the countdown begins to a new film in the saga, due to be released this Christmas. Dedicated fans, who queued for hours to meet their heroes, pulled out all the stops to arrive dressed as their favourite characters
Picture: www.StarWarsCelebration.com

Mayor spells out dangers of knife crime

BY GEOFF BAKER
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LONDON Mayor Sadiq Khan is warning young people who carry knives that they risk ruining their lives by facing a long stretch in prison.

As knife crime increases in the capital, the Mayor has spelled out a grim message to those who carry a blade to protect themselves – you are more likely to end up behind bars.

Anyone caught in possession of a knife faces a sentence of four years in jail plus a fine of up to £5,000. Anyone causing injury with a knife faces up to 25 years in prison.

The Mayor issued his warning last week as he announced £400,000 in extra funding for projects to stop knife crime, which in the last two years has increased in London by 16 per cent.

The new funding will go to two London Resettlement Consortia projects which offer support for vulnerable young offenders across 12 London boroughs.

Mayor Khan has also revealed plans for a City Hall Knife Crime Summit aimed at giving young people a voice and bringing together experts, community members and project workers to find a better way of dealing with the problem and help stop young people from making the choices that lead them into violence.

The Mayor and his Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, visited specialist youth workers at St Mary's Hospital in Paddington to hear from those on the frontline trying to help vulnerable young victims move away from the lifestyle which led them into the path of danger and violence.

The Redthread Youth Violence Intervention Programme, funded by the Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime (MOPAC), operates in all four of London's Major Trauma Centres and has helped support over 800 young Londoners to date, eight per cent of whom were under 18 and not known to any agencies prior to their admission.

Mr Khan said: "Every young death is an utter tragedy, yet both knife crime and youth violence are growing problems. Earlier this year, a 20-year-old Londoner was stabbed to death just yards from my own home.

"As Mayor, and as a father of two teenage daughters, I am deeply concerned and determined to do everything I possibly can to help rid our communities of this terrible violence.

"We need to send a strong message that carrying a knife is completely unacceptable, and is more likely to ruin your life than to save it.

"Redthread youth workers are doing an incredible job helping young victims to move away from the circles that led to them getting hurt, but there is much more we can do. Alongside enforcement and tougher penalties for carrying knives, we are bringing together experts, services, schools, and community groups to tackle this problem together, and help prevent our children from making the terrible mistakes which so gravely threaten young lives in the capital."

Ms Linden said: "Eight young people have lost their lives on the streets of London since the beginning of this year. That's eight young people cut down in their prime.

"When it comes to serious youth violence, enforcement alone is not enough, and Redthread offers young people a 'teachable moment' and a chance to turn their lives away from the dangerous path they have gone down.

"As well as our work with the Met, we are working with the NHS, youth workers, health professionals, schools, local communities and families to do everything we can to prevent more needless deaths on our capital's streets."

New funding will extend the two victims-based London Resettlement Consortia projects for a further year. The projects were launched in September 2015 following research commissioned by MOPAC which found around 40 per cent of young offenders had emotional and mental health needs due to previous victimisation that were not being addressed.

The projects work with hard-to-reach young people, either released from custody or being managed in the community, across 12 boroughs from Waltham Forest and Redbridge to Lewisham and Croydon, to identify and address undetected post-traumatic stress and other psychological issues that may be causing anti-social and criminal behaviour.

MOPAC has committed funding for the Youth Violence Intervention Programme until March 2018 across all four Major Trauma Centres (St Mary's, The Royal London, King's College Hospital and St George's). The programme is also supported through hospital charities such as the Imperial College Healthcare Charity's Major Trauma Centre Appeal. The charity raises funds for research, equipment and projects at the five hospitals of Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, including St Mary's.

Pink pacers put their best feet forward

MORE than 1,000 walkers took on the second London at Night Pink Ribbonwalk for Breast Cancer Care to support women with breast cancer.

Walkers completed the five, 10 or 20 miles throughout the city on July 9 –taking in the iconic landmarks of the capital including the Millennium Bridge, St Paul's, the West End, the Houses of Parliament and Buckingham Palace.

Claire Pulford, head of events at Breast Cancer Care, said: "It's fantastic to have seen over 1,000 wonderful walkers take on the London at Night Pink Ribbonwalk. This year approximately 4,600 people living in Greater London will receive the devastating news that they have breast cancer. So it's vital that we continue to offer them care, support and information from day one. We are so grateful to everyone who took part; it really was an incredible night."

Celebrity Breast Cancer Care Ambassador Lisa Snowdon took on the 10-mile walk, while *Googlebox* star Nikki Tapper walked the five-mile route with her mum. Sky News sports presenter Jacquie Beltrao was there to set the walkers off.

The organisers are aiming to raise £300,000 from the event.

Breast Cancer Care is the only UK-wide support charity helping the thousands of people who wake up to the harsh reality of breast cancer every day. All funds raised from the Pink Ribbonwalks enable Breast Cancer Care to provide vital support.

Participants are in the pink during the London at Night Pink Ribbonwalk for Breast Cancer Care
Picture: Steve Burton

War letters reveal compassionate side of one of our favourite royals

BY GEOFF BAKER
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COLLECTORS are expected to pack the Mayfair auction rooms of Dreweatts & Bloomsbury next month at a rare opportunity to own intimate letters of a much-loved member of the Royal Family.

Before she was Queen and then The Queen Mother, as a young woman Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon nursed wounded soldiers at her family home at Angus in Scotland. During the First World War, Glamis Castle was used as a military hospital and the young aristocrat became friends with Private James Harding.

A selection of the letters she and Private Harding exchanged are to go up for auction on August 11 – where they are expected to fetch up to £7,000.

"Letters written by the Queen Mother do not appear frequently on the current market and they are very sought after by collectors of Royal autographs and memorabilia," said a spokesman for the aunctioneers.

The letters reveal the future queen as a kind, engaging and poetic young woman who took to playing the card game Hearts with the wounded men to help keep up their spirits.

One of the six letters, dated 29 November 1916 and signed by the then 16-year-old as 'Elizabeth Lyon', displays a reference to the card games she played with Harding and another soldier saying: 'I enjoyed them very much, even tho' I was treated badly by you and Nix!'

The Queen Mother's biographer William Shawcross claims that Harding and his fellow soldiers used to make sure Elizabeth got terrible cards during games.

"There was wild laughter when she got the Queen of Spades time after time – and she discovered that they had been passing it under the table to give to her," said Shawcross.

A second letter, dated 22 December 1916, included a poem about the card tricks.

"I sometimes go into the Ward
And play a game or two
And if I get the Queen of Spades
T'is only due to you
Private Harding
Are you not ashamed and sorry
That cheating should go on?"

As a young woman Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon nursed wounded soldiers at her home in Scotland. In the First World War, Glamis Castle, above, was used as a military hospital

In a third letter, dated October 2nd 1918, Elizabeth wrote: "I am going to stay with my sister near Musselburgh next Tuesday and shall be arriving at [Edinburgh] Waverley Station at 4.49. I should be so pleased to see you for a few minutes if you could come… it would be rather nice if I brought a pack of cards and we could play Hearts on the platform!"

A fourth letter aimed to arrange a meeting with Harding and a fifth letter, dated 13 September 1919, expressed Elizabeth's concern about Harding's difficulty in finding a job following the end of the war.

She wrote: "It seems to be very difficult now… I wonder what sort of a job you want? I might by chance hear of one that you'd like, though you'd probably want to be in Edinburgh… I do hope something will turn up."

A follow-up letter to Harding three months later expressed her pleasure at learning Harding had secured a position with the young future royal writing: 'I can't tell you how pleased I am to hear the good news!'

Two years after the final letter Elizabeth met the then Prince Albert, Duke of York, and they married in 1923. Their first child, now Her Majesty The Queen, was born in 1926.

Darling dances her way to royal notoriety

VISITORS to London frustrated in their wish to catch a glimpse of the hugely-popular Duchess of Cambridge could always make do with seeing rather a lot more of her cousin, who is appearing regularly in a burlesque show in Soho.

Katrina Darling, the stage name of the Duchess's somewhat-distant relative, has become a star attraction at The Box club.

Ms Darling, a keen fan of posting revealing photographs of herself on Twitter and Instagram, has yet to match quite the same following of her second cousin.

Her royal connection has not hindered her career, of course. Ms Darling has appeared on the cover of *Playboy* and has performed at the famous Life Ball in Vienna before guests who included President Bill Clinton and Sir Elton John.

She has claimed to have also performed private shows for a member of one of the European royal families and she revealed to *Maxim* magazine that she would be happy to take a booking at Buckingham Palace.

Tantalisingly, she added: "They've had burlesque performers before, like Sukki Singapora, who's basically the burlesque ambassador for Singapore. Plus a lot of Royals go to The Box, so it's not like they're not familiar with what I do."

Royal watchers who prefer a less risqué attraction are advised to get down to the Annual General Meeting at the Royal Geographical Society in Kensington Gore today [Tuesday] where Prince Harry and Zara Phillip's grandfather, the Duke of Edinburgh, will be presenting prizes and awards in his capacity of patron of the Royal Institute of Navigation.

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SOW THE SEEDS OF LOVE

Queen pops in to historic pub

THE Queen stunned regulars at a traditional Scottish pub when she popped in for a slap-up meal and a tipple.

Britain's longest serving monarch made a secret visit to the oldest bar in the country during her stay at Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh last Friday.

And she only gave workers at The Sheep Heid Inn an hour to prepare for the Royal visit.

The 90-year-old had spent the day at Musselburgh Racecourse before taking a window seat in the pub's dining area.

Her party is understood to have ordered a martini and a half bottle of white wine, along with two portions of lamb and a fillet of seabass.

The main meals are advertised at £16.50 each on the pub's regular menu but it is not known which of the meals the Queen ordered.

Staff at the pub have been sworn to secrecy but were able to confirm that the head of state visited.

A worker said: "I've been sworn to secrecy unfortunately and have no idea how her visit got out there."

Regular customer and Edinburgh city councillor Alex Lunn said: "The Sheep Heid Inn is something the local community are very proud of and a visit from the Queen is another string to add to its bow.

"I eat there regularly so I'm sure Her Majesty enjoyed an excellent meal."

The Sheep Heid Inn which was established in 1360 has been linked to the Royal family since the 1500s.

One story of how the pub got its name states that in 1580, King James VI of Scotland gifted the landlord an ornate ram's head snuff box.

It is believed he and his mother, Mary Queen of Scots, stopped by the inn many times to play skittles in the courtyard.

As a mark of gratitude, he presented the landlord with the unusual gift which remained on site for 300 years before being sold at auction to the Earl of Rosebery.

It is very rare for The Queen to dine out in public, other than at private London clubs and hotels.

Earlier in the day, the Queen had attended Musselburgh Racecourse to celebrate its 200th birthday.

She was accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh and is understood to have watched the action from inside the racecourse's VIP hospitality areas.

Robert Louis Stevenson, Robert Burns and Bonnie Prince Charlie - as his army was encamped at Duddingston for a month prior to the Battle of Prestonpans - are among the inn's other famous patrons.

Buckingham Palace declined to comment on the Queen's visit to the Sheep Heid Inn, other than to say that she had spent the evening "privately".

Her Majesty the Queen surprised delighted staff at the historic Sheep Heid Inn by popping in for a drink and a meal after a day at Musselburgh Racecourse

Windsor six step out in the wider world

BY GEOFF BAKER
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ORGANISERS of London's poshest parties who are frequently wanting to copy The Queen when it comes to booking a "star turn" for their swanky dos can now turn to six of the best for their entertainment.

It's a common problem with booking an act for lavish events as protocol dictates that Buckingham Palace does not advertise whom Her Majesty prefers to perform at private functions and so those wishing to add a royal touch to their own parties are often unsure of who to turn to.

Thanks to Radio 2 presenter Eve Pollard we recently learned that Her Majesty has a fondness for the songs of George Formby. But as the cheeky ukulele player died in 1961, he is no longer taking bookings.

But fret not, for it has now emerged that the royal touch can be added to events by booking the merry men of Windsor who go by the name The Queen's Six.

The Six – countertenors Daniel Brittain and Timothy Carleston, tenors Nicholas Madden and Dominic Bland and baritone and bass Andrew Thompson and Simon Whiteley – are an a cappella choir who have frequently performed for Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh at private functions at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle.

"The Queen's Six were established in 2008, the 450th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth I, from whom they take their name," said a spokesman for the royal favourites.

"Elizabeth I was a great patroness of the arts, and often engaged the services of musicians to write and perform for her at court. The notable 'six' from this era were Thomas Tallis, William Byrd, Thomas Tomkins, Thomas Morley, Orlando Gibbons, and Thomas Weelkes.

"The new Six are based at Windsor Castle, where they are also Lay Clerks of St George's Chapel, whose homes lie within the castle walls. The Chapel Choir, which consists of boy trebles and twelve professional adult male singers, performs some eight services a week, as well as at private and state occasions, often before the Royal Family.

"This rare privilege demands the highest musical standards. Most significantly however, it is the familiarity of living and singing together every day in the Royal Chapel that lends this group its distinctive closeness and blend, as well as an irresistible informality and charm."

The Queen's Six are available for private bookings or to arrange and record a song of your choice

Now that they are taking bookings from the public, The Queen's Six offer much more than hymns and psalms.

"Their repertoire extends far beyond the reach of the choir stalls, from austere early chants, florid Renaissance polyphony, lewd madrigals, haunting folk songs and upbeat jazz and pop arrangements, The Queen's Six can provide anything from dinner or wedding reception entertainment to full concert programmes," said the spokesman.

The Six are shortly to undertake a concert tour of Austria and Germany but besides performing in hallowed venues they are also taking commissions from those who wish to give a loved one a distinctive anniversary, birthday or wedding present.

"You can woo your loved ones, friends and family by buying them a unique gift, The Six will arrange and record a song of your choice," said the spokesman.

One wonders whether Her Majesty joins in when The Queen's Six perform at royal parties, for according to her relatives and friends, The Queen not only has a lovely voice but also enjoys a rousing sing-song.

Eve Pollard, who researched The Queen's taste in music for a recent Radio 2 show, says she has enjoyed singing since she performed in pantomimes at Windsor during the war.

"Her parents, King George Vl and the late Queen Mother, loved singing and passed it on. The Duke of Edinburgh and the rest of the family join in," said Eve.

"Her cousin, Lady Elizabeth Anson, told me: 'We did a lot of singing at Kensington Palace. Nobody thought it was odd after dinner if we put on a record and all sang Doing the Lambeth Walk, so music has always been part of her life."

Lady Anson added: "The Queen loves the theatre and musicals like Showboat, Oklahoma! and Annie Get Your Gun. These were the tunes that remained in one's head and were very danceable to. The Queen is a fantastic dancer. She's got great rhythm."

According to Eve, at an early age The Queen learnt to dance the waltz, the slow waltz, the foxtrot, the quickstep, and the samba.

"Lady Anson said that if you watch Her Majesty at Trooping the Colour you will see that she's tapping her toes. So military music means a lot to her, she's extremely knowledgeable about military music and loves massed bands, especially pipe bands."

Capital nights

EDITED BY GEOFF BAKER

How hard work made CK the 'loser' a winner

DESPITE building an enviable comedy career upon the humour derived from his own sloth and world-weariness, Louis CK is actually one of the hardest-working stand-ups on the circuit, *writes Jack Dixon*.

Alongside his busy touring schedule, the Washington-born comic has written, directed and starred in five seasons of his own hit FX series, *Louie*, and appeared in a handful of blockbuster films, including Woody Allen's *Blue Jasmine* and David O'Russell's *American Hustle*.

And he recently put the finishing touches to his latest online comedy series, *Horace and Pete*, which won high praise from critics earlier this year.

CK – born Louis Szekely – is finally reaping the long-awaited rewards of a career that for many years seemed destined to rust.

His rise to fame has coincided with the resurgence of so-called 'loser' comics – the type who unload their everyday insecurities for bloodthirsty audiences on a nightly basis. Of this form, Louis is the master.

Thinning on top and bulging at the bust, CK makes no excuses for being out of shape. In fact, it's the self-flagellating contempt he holds for his own bad habits that forms the crux of his act.

His increasingly foul-mouthed observations swing from the tedium of a post-divorce depressive slump to the petty squabbles of the Great American Public. Picture Louis waiting in line at a Manhattan drug store while an old lady argues for hours with the pharmacist over the details of her prescription.

It was these kitchen sink-inspired moments, the inherent humour of the everyday, that were woven into *Louie*, bagging CK not one but two Primetime Emmy Awards.

Loosely based on the comedian's own troubled life, CK starred in the series as a tragi-comic version of himself, with snapshots of his own stand-up routines interspersed with short vignettes about Louis' life in New York.

It's bleak for the most part. CK recounts (several) failed attempts at reviving romance while getting knocked back by the likes of Jerry Seinfeld and David Letterman as he rises up the professional ladder.

His directorial style has been rightly compared to Woody Allen – and there is more than a hint of the legend's influence in the way CK lingers on the beautiful scenery of the Big Apple while spinning humdrum stories about the city's inhabitants.

Puncturing the sadness of Louis' life, however, are moments of perfection. For all his haggard grumpiness, CK adores his two young daughters and carries on against the grain simply to provide for them.

The 48-year-old has now secured a place among the US comedy elite and is revered by the likes of Ricky Gervais and Chris Rock.

He returns to London for the first time in three years next month for a short run of shows, including a triple-header at the Hammersmith Apollo.

But after building an act based entirely on his own failures, will his recent success spoil the authenticity? Don't worry, Louis is always on the lookout for the next banana skin.

"You can't ever find a place that's nice and peaceful because there isn't one," he says with optimism.

"You may think there is, but when you get there somebody will sneak up and write 'f*** you' right under your nose."

■ **Louis CK will appear at the Eventim Apollo in Hammersmith on Saturday, August 13 and Sunday August 14**

Louis CK is one of the hardest-working stand-ups on the comedy circuit

Gig guide

Alexis Taylor
Paper Dress Vintage, Dalston
Thursday, July 21

Singer and keys man in retro electro outfit Hot Chip, Taylor goes solo in support of debut album, *Piano*, released earlier this year. Marries pounding dance beats and glittering synth sounds with a gentle croon that echoes the Pet Shop Boys at their best.

Michael Kiwanuka
Rough Trade East, Brick Lane
Tuesday, July 19

Smooth soul man championed by Auntie Beeb and a host of famous names. Already a festival favourite, Kiwanuka is set to soundtrack the summer of 2016 with the tap-along acoustic jams on his latest offering, *Love & Hate*.

Andy Stott
The Jazz Café, Camden
Thursday, July 21
Manchester-based producer who dabbles in dub and leftfield techno. Keeps a low profile but is garnering growing acclaim in critical circles. Poised to impress with offerings from new album *Too Many Voices*.

Capital nights

EDITED BY GEOFF BAKER

Watch more TV drama, it'll do you good

TV chiefs are aiming to boost Britain's brain power by screening many more murder and cop shows after scientists claimed that watching mystery thrillers is good for the mind.

ITV bosses have commissioned three new crime series in the wake of research that watching such dramas is food for the brain.

Although TV watchdogs have previously feared that too much crime inures viewers and risks making them relaxed about the frightening reality of it, boffins say that watching suspense-filled thrillers helps to keep the mind healthy with a taxing mental workout.

"Watching a powerful mystery is actually good for you, that's neuroscientific fact," says Dr Amanda Ellison, a neuroscientist at Durham University.

"Whether it's a gritty Nordic noir box set, *Broadchurch* or some other small screen thriller, telly of this kind provides an excellent workout for your brain, and the research in my field affirms this.

"The best TV crime dramas build suspense over a number of episodes. They challenge viewers to pay attention to complicated stories, including red herrings, and to remember them from episode to episode. In other words, they provide great stimulation for the brain, which in turn helps keep it healthy, as the human brain needs to be kept active. In fact, when you deprive it of stimulation it reacts very badly."

TV dramas like Broadchurch provide an excellent workout for the brain, according to scientists

Armed with this research, ITV is planning to capitalise on the success of *Broadchurch* with a Scottish version of the Dorset-based drama, *Loch Ness*.

As viewers lapped up the Westcountry countryside as much as the plot, ITV is setting the new six-part murder mystery amid the beautiful, haunting shores of Scotland's most iconic loch.

Happy Valley's Siobhan Finneran and *The Missing's* Laura Fraser will take the leads in this tense tale of a community nourished and sustained by myth and bordered by untamed nature, where the search for a serial killer becomes a matter of life and death for local detective Annie Redford who is trying to cope with her first murder case.

ITV has also started filming another crime thriller, *Dark Heart*, which will be set in London and will star Tom Riley as a new screen cop caught in a nasty investigation of the serial murders of suspected child sex offenders. It is also importing a US crime series, *Lethal Weapon*, which TV chiefs are tipping to be a blockbuster.

Lethal Weapon is a classic cop buddy drama of detectives Riggs (played by Clayne Crawford of *Rectify*).

ITV's Director of Television, Kevin Lygo, is already raving about the show. He said: "It's rare that we find an acquisition with that sweet spot potential – the best production values and hugely entertaining drama, that we think can appeal to the biggest and broadest audiences and take up a place in ITV primetime.

"We saw *Lethal Weapon* and were immediately excited by what it could add to the ITV schedule, and we're really looking forward to bringing the series to UK viewers."

Animals magic by the riverside

A brand new music and literary festival, *Caught By The River Thames*, comes to Fulham Palace this summer. In the run-up to the two-day extravaganza, Capital Nights takes a closer look at some of the best acts on the bill

Super Furry Animals

IN their own unique way, Super Furry Animals have made a pretty significant contribution to music over the last two decades – big hits, Paul McCartney guesting on carrot-and-celery percussion and the first Welsh language album to reach the UK Top 20.

When the Animals released their debut *Fuzzy Logic* in 1996, the idea of a band from The Valleys registering on an international level still seemed a novelty, the pop equivalent of a Jamaican bobsleigh team winning gold at the Olympics – let alone a Welsh band who sometimes sing in their native tongue.

By the end of the 1990s, the Animals were headlining the Cardiff International Arena and broadcasting the performance on the internet. At the time the latter seemed like another curio – alongside their investigation of their own roots, the Animals have often demonstrated an interest in technological innovation.

They're back – Super Furry Animals

This century the band had a UK top five album with *Rings Around The World* and reportedly turned down a million-dollar offer from Coca-Cola to use their music in a marketing campaign.

The group announced in 2010 that they were taking a five-year break. But it is testimony to their vigour that the hiatus was interrupted by a remarkable appearance at the Cardiff City Stadium, as the Animals cranked up before a friendly football match between Wales and Costa Rica – a tribute to the late Welsh manager Gary Speed.

Now, break over, SFA are back in full swing. The bonkers new single *Bing Bong* is their first new music for seven years.

And with fans hopeful of a rebirth, the stage is set for the Animals to take back the summer – starting with Fulham Palace.

Super Furry Animals are the headline act at the Caught By The River Thames festival in Fulham on Sunday, August 7.

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Capital nights

EDITED BY GEOFF BAKER

Wimbledon champion Andy Murray got down to the Drama club in Mayfair – moments after dining with VIPs in the slightly more refined surroundings of the All England Club

Murray proves he's the ace of clubs

ANDY Murray was not the only one soaking up his sensational victory at Wimbledon last weekend – it proved to be an ace evening for revellers at fancy central London night club Drama as the new champion hopped straight off Centre Court and onto the dancefloor.

Proving the famously sour Scot is capable of letting his hair down after all, he wasted little time in whizzing off to the Mayfair club with wife Kim – moments after dining with VIPs in the slightly more refined surrounds of the All England Club.

Wide-eyed party-goers must have thought they were seeing double when Murray and co arrived in smashing style on Sunday, with the glory of a British triumph (and some liquid refreshment) keeping the night alive into the early hours.

The 29-year-old had earlier promised Sue Barker he would make sure he enjoyed his second Wimbledon win – and Murray certainly kept his end of the bargain.

Guests said the Scot put thousands of pounds behind the bar as they posed for selfies with the champion, undoubtedly now one of Britain's greatest ever sportsmen.

Even the resident DJ, Lohrasp Kansara, could not contain his excitement as he clocked Murray schmoozing with several other celebrity guests till 4 in the morning.

"Andy Murray (celebrating his Wimbledon grand slam win), One Direction, Young Thug all in here. Drama Nightclub in London is ON FIRE!!! My goodness," he tweeted at 3.05am.

The fancy West End club, which features a room covered with banana-scented wallpaper, boasts Lindsay Lohan, Rihanna, Ellie Goulding and Ashley James among its celebrity regulars.

But there aren't likely to be many Drama nights that can rally with Murray's post-Wimbledon party for first class service.

A yawning Murray was rather more sedate about the evening when quizzed by reporters at his 10am press conference: "It was good. I had a great night and spent some time with my friends and family."

Not so much of a happy Summer Holiday for some...

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FSG Fostering Support Group

Christmas in the kitchen

ALTHOUGH it is months away, the BBC is getting in early by announcing its Christmas programming – and it is planning to put Bake Off queens Mary Berry and Nadiya Hussain at the top of its tree.

In a bid to thwart rivals ITV in the ratings war, BBC1 is scheduling Christmas Day to be Women's Day with The Great Christmas Bake Off teaming up with The Queen's Speech and the mainly female cast of Call The Midwife to stop viewers switching over.

Following the huge success of last year's Bake Off final, which was the most-watched TV show of 2015, BBC chiefs are to surf the success of that with two with two yuletide specials, one pencilled in for Christmas Day.

Four bakers from past series will be invited back to don Christmas jumpers and tackle suitably-seasonal challenges. One of the bakers is expected to be Nadiya, due to her huge popularity with viewers.

"Bringing Great British Bake Off specials to BBC One this Christmas will be the perfect recipe for the festive season," said Charlotte Moore, Director of BBC content, who is said to be planning the baking show to follow The Queen's Christmas Message, with a Midwife Christmas special to follow that.

Harry's win of biblical proportions

HARRY Potter beats God shock.

The JK Rowling classics are the books that most adults think every child should read, according to a BBC Local Radio poll to celebrate the pleasure of reading.

A total of 1,001 adults were given a choice of ten classic books chosen by recommendations from the British public. The results suggest 26 per cent of British adults say they think every child should read Harry Potter, *pictured*, closely followed by Roald Dahl's The BFG (24 per cent).

The top choices of books varied across the generations. Harry Potter (35 per cent) and

The BFG (31 per cent) are the favourites among 18-34 year olds. However, The Famous Five (26 per cent) and The Wind In The Willows (25 per cent) are the most common recommendations for those aged 55 plus.

For the most part, choices are evenly split between the genders - however, The Famous Five is a more popular recommendation among women (22 per cent) than men (15 per cent), while The Lord Of The Rings is more likely to be recommended by men (20 per cent) than women (9 per cent).

The top reason for picking Harry Potter was that "it expands imagination" (said 75 per cent). Meanwhile To Kill a Mockingbird was also chosen because "it provides lessons about the world and it helps to develop good moral character".

Only 10 per cent of 18-34-year-olds selected the Bible as the book they'd most like to recommend to children, meanwhile 19 per cent of those aged over 55 nominated The Bible.

Wine&dine

MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Grouse, spelt and herb salad

Serves four
Spelt is a great grain for adding a bit of flavour to a gamey salad like this. I often use it in place of rice in a risotto, as it holds up really well and is quite healthy with it.

Ingredients
2 oven-ready grouse
A few sprigs of thyme
A few sage leaves
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
A couple knobs of butter
A handful of small tasty salad leaves and herbs, washed and dried
30-40g spelt, soaked in cold water for a few hours
2tbsp rapeseed oil
1tbsp chopped parsley
1tbsp chopped chives
1tbsp chopped chervil

For the dressing
1tbsp cider or white wine vinegar
1tsp Tewkesbury or Dijon mustard
2tbsp rapeseed or olive oil
2tbsp vegetable or corn oil

Method
Cook the spelt in simmering salted water for about 15-20 minutes or until tender, then drain and leave to cool. Mix the herbs with the spelt and rapeseed oil and season to taste.
Season the grouse inside and out: put the sage and thyme inside the birds and rub the breasts with butter. Place on a baking tray and roast for about 15 minutes, keeping them nice and pink , leave to cool a little before removing the legs and breasts. Whisk the ingredients together for the dressing and season.
To serve, remove all of the meat from the legs and slice the breasts into 5-6 pieces, arrange the leaves, spelt and slices of grouse on to serving plates and spoon over the dressing.

A tasty salad of grouse, spelt and herbs

Good food, great staff and a smart new look

Bella Italia, Baker Street

FOR a beautifully prepared Italian meal in simply exquisite surroundings you need look no further than the excellent new Bella Italia on Baker Street ***writes Nicky Sweetland.***

As soon as you walk through the front door you get a sense of calm and tranquility with the contemporary interior perfectly balanced with traditional artefacts. Italian maps and posters adorn the walls and the restaurant is split into three intimate spaces giving a homely, cosy feel.

Once settled at my table, I was impressed by how passionately the staff spoke about their restaurant and I took their lead with my menu.

After a couple of sips of a fresh and light Prosecco, (House Da Luca Prosecco £6.35) I munched on a deliciously creamy and rich Funghi Arrosto (£5.95), which is baked mushrooms in a creamy mascarpone, garlic and spinach sauce, topped with mozzarella and served with ciabatta.

I was then treated to a classic Queen Margherita pizza (£10.25), with buffalo Bocconcini mozzarella, Marzanini tomatoes, pesto & basil, which was wholesome and very filling.

On advice, I washed it down with a decadent Cosmopolitan, which gave a real taste of sunshine.

To finish, I was excited to try the selection of mini desserts, which are served in shot glasses and are perfectly bite sized portions. I sampled salted chocolate caramel (rich and luxurious), limoncello (tangy and fresh) and strawberry cheesecake (crisp biscuit with sumptuous fruit).

With this lovely restaurant just a short walk from popular attractions including London Zoo and Madame Tussauds, Bella Italia, on Baker Street, is both a convenient and convivial place to enjoy an excellent meal.

Creamy Funghi Arrosto

Queen Margherita pizza and a decadent Cosmopolitan.

Bella Italia, Baker Street, with a revamped new look.

Talk of the town

Rebel Wilson in Guys and Dolls ****

THE classic musical *Guys and Dolls* is still packing them in at the Phoenix Theatre on Charing Cross Road and the Chichester Festival Theatre production has enjoyed a new influx of fangirls since Hollywood star Rebel Wilson joined the cast, *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

The actress, who is most famous for her performances in the *Pitch Perfect* film franchise, is making her London stage debut in the musical as Miss Adelaide, a nightclub showgirl who is struck down with psychosomatic flu symptoms, while she waits for her no-good fiancé to name the date of their big day.

Wilson joins the celebrated cast of the glitzy musical, alongside West End stage stalwart Simon Lipkin as Nathan Detroit and the tried and tested pairing of Oliver Tompsett (Sky Masterson) and Siubhan Harrison (Sarah Brown) for the story, which follows a gang of friendly gamblers as they search for a quick buck, love and eventually redemption. Made famous by the 1955 film which starred Marlon Brando and Frank Sinatra, *Guys and Dolls* is a proper old fashioned Broadway style musical, with the perfect mix of glitz, glamour and great tunes.

I first watched the show back in January at the Savoy Theatre before it transferred due to popular demand and so I was interested in what the voluptuous Wilson could bring to the famously adorable role. As expected, the popular Australian performer offers impeccable comic timing and her renditions of *A Bushel and a Peck* and *Take Back your Mink* are both rousing and hilarious. With the addition of Wilson's unique style of physical humour, the character feels less vulnerable, but at times, the innuendo is just a little too modern to fit in with the innocence of the musical, which is set in 1920s New York.

The on-stage chemistry with Lipkin is electric and his buffoon like, bumbling portrayal oozes charm. I do feel, however that some of the most famous lines are over milked (particularly when answering Tompsett's question about the colour of his neck tie), which makes the dialogue slow and the jokes lose their impact.

This was the first time I'd seen Oliver Tompsett since his days on *Wicked* at the Apollo Victoria (around ten years ago) and I was pleased to see that he's grown into a commanding performer, with his silky vocals and matinee idol looks perfect for the role of the smooth talking gambler, Sky Masterson.

Siubhan Harrison, as the object of his affections, goes from strength to strength as Sarah Brown and Olivier nominated Gavin Spokes as Nicely Nicely Johnson continues to whip the show along with humour and vere.

With breathtaking dance routines, including the standards *Luck be a Lady* and *Sit Down You're Rocking the Boat*, *Guys and Dolls* is an impressive stage spectacle and Rebel Wilson is a great addition to this cast, who makes a return visit to the show, just a little bit different.

■ Rebel Wilson will perform in *Guys and Dolls* at the Phoenix Theatre until 21st August. If you would like any further information, you can visit the website *guysanddollsthemusical.co.uk*

Perfect mix of glitz and glamour

The classic musical *Guys and Dolls* is still packing them in at the Phoenix Theatre on Charing Cross Road

Rebel Wilson (Miss Adelaide) and Simon Lipkin (Nathan Detroit) in *Guys and Dolls* at The Phoenix Theatre Pictures: Johan Persson

Union stage set biblical classic

A QUARTER of a century after its original West End production, *Children of Eden* will return to London in a new production at the Union Theatre, opening on Friday, August 12, with previews from Wednesday, August 10.

Children of Eden will be the second production in the Union Theatre's brand new state-of-the-art space in Southwark, where Ruthie Henshall and Stephen Mear were recently announced as patrons. The new venue's first production, *The Fix*, is currently in previews.

Inspired by the Book of Genesis, *Children of Eden* tells the timeless story of what it means to be a parent. From the moment you bring a child into the world everything changes; you learn to protect, cherish, and love unconditionally. But as they grow you have to learn one more thing; to one day let them go. Featuring one of the most beautiful scores in contemporary musical theatre from the composer of *Godspell, Pippin* and *Wicked, Children of Eden* is a heartfelt and humorous musical about the unique family bond.

Children of Eden has music and lyrics by acclaimed composer Stephen Schwartz, who is perhaps best known for his mega-hit musical *Wicked,* which continues to play on Broadway and in the West End. A big screen adaptation of *Wicked* is also in development. Stephen has contributed lyrics to films including *Pocahontas, The Hunchback of Notre* and *Enchanted*, and his other stage musicals include *Godspell* and *Pippin*. Schwartz was recently given a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame.

If you would like further details, you can visit the website *www.uniontheatre.biz*

Celebration of Rocky Horror

THIS Halloween BFI Southbank will host the *Science Fiction Double Feature Picture Show*, the ultimate celebration of all things Rocky Horror.

The event on Saturday, October 29, will include 'shadow cast' screenings of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (Jim Sharman, 1975) starring Tim Curry, Susan Sarandon and original creator Richard O'Brien, and the often over-looked sequel *Shock Treatment* (Jim Sharman, 1981), starring O'Brien and Patricia Quinn alongside famous faces like Ruby Wax, Rik Mayall and Barry Humphries. The screenings mark the 35th anniversary of the release of *Shock Treatment*.

A unique experience for super-fans and the uninitiated alike, the 'shadow cast' will see an international cast of Rocky Horror performers from the UK, US and Europe take to the stage to perform numbers from both films live.

Talk of the town

FROM very humble beginnings more than 15 years ago, The Gruffalo Live, has become a popular fixture on the London stage and it returns, once again, this year bringing its unique style of fun ***writes Nicky Sweetland.***

Based on the beloved children's book by Julia Donaldson, the stage adaptation has thrilled generations of theatre-goers and has been seen by more than a million people worldwide.

The creative team behind the show - Olivia Jacobs and Toby Mitchell - discovered the charming tale, which has illustrations by Axel Scheffler, shortly after the book was first published in 1999 and knew immediately it would make a exciting and adorable stage production.

"Shortly after it was published, we read it and loved it," Olivia said. "It was little known, Julia (Donaldson) and Axel (Scheffler) were little known and it wasn't a big deal, so we met with Julia and off we went.

Families can chant the familiar rhyming couplets along with the cast

"Now 15 years later it's grown and grown and it's been glorious to work on."

It was a challenge to make the 32-page children's story into a full stage show, and it has continued to be developed over the years to keep the production fresh and current.

Olivia said: "Obviously the book tells a very simple story of a mouse, who goes through the deep dark wood and stumbles across three predators who threaten to eat her. She invents the story of a Gruffalo who will eat all of the predators to make them run away as fast as they can and so the mouse, through brains and not brawn survives."

"The stage show expands on all of those characters, so we learn a lot more about mouse and about fox, snake and owl. We developed characteristics for each of them directly from the animal.

"In rehearsals, we looked at how a fox moves and we found that they have a very gentle pad, pad, pad, but there's also a little jump in them. We put that into an anthropomorphic form, so the human characters have those animal characteristics.

"Each of the predators have their own style of music, their own song and we learn a little bit more about them."

In total 63 performers have taken to the stage and the show has been performed throughout five continents, in 16 countries and in three languages. As the book has continued to grow in popularity, the stage show has changed to include more audience participation, so families can chant the familiar rhyming couplets along with the cast.

The Gruffalo Live is running at Lyric Theatre until 4th September. The show is suitable for ages three years and up, but a real treat for the whole family.

If you would like further information, you can visit the website gruffalolive.com

Steve McCourt as The Gruffalo, Ellie Bell as Mouse and Charlie Guest as Fox in the popular stage production.

Broadway hits in a Disney show of shows

A NEW Disney concert celebrating over two decades of stunning Broadway shows will receive its European premiere at the Royal Albert Hall in October.

Disney's Broadway Hits will feature the BBC Concert Orchestra alongside a galaxy of stars – including Oscar-winning composer Alan Menken and members of Aladdin's West End cast – performing show-stoppers from a succession of stage successes.

The one-night-only event on October 23, will feature music from such award-winning scores as Beauty and the Beast, Aida, The Lion King, Mary Poppins, Tarzan and The Hunchback of Notre Dame.

Lucy Noble, Director of Events at the Royal Albert Hall, said: "There's nothing like a Disney stage show to get the audience on its feet, and these incredible musicals have become a part of our culture: riots of colour, dance and song packed with ingenuity, emotion and unique theatrical magic

For tickets and further information, you can visit the website www.royalalberthall.com

Talk of the town

A trio of Judys: Lucy Penrose as the young ingenue, Belinda Wollaston as Garland in her prime and Helen Sheals as the mature cabaret performer.

Through the Mill *****

MANY fans of musicals will have first been introduced to the genre through classic MGM films and, for many, the Wizard of Oz will have been their primary foray into the world.

The film starred a young Judy Garland, who went on to become one of the most celebrated performers of her generation, and a new show celebrating her life and career opened to a tremendously exuberant, sold out audience this wek at Southwark Playhouse, ***writes Nicky Sweetland.***

Entitled, Through the Mill, the heart-warming drama follows Garland through some of the most famous episodes of her working life.

Writer and director Ray Rackham has devised a thoroughly compelling story told by three Judy Garlands performing, at times, simultaneously, including a 12-year-old wannabe, a nervous 29-year-old and a somewhat jaded 40-year-old, illustrating the struggles and triumphs of the iconic star.

Brimming with show business razzmatazz and yet simple and truthful, the show is filled with some of the glorious music which was made famous by the star, performed with stunning vocals by the trio of Judys, Belinda Wollaston, Lucy Penrose and Helen Sheals.

Supported by a stellar cast of actor/musicians and beautifully lit by Jack Weir, this production is a must for lovers of Judy Garland, but also stands alone as a stunning piece of dramatic writing.

Through the Mill runs at Southwark Playhouse until July 30. Further information is available from the website southwarkplayhouse.co.uk

Brimming with showbiz razzmatazz and yet simple and truthful

Lucas Rush, Newton Faulkner and Amelia Lily in American Idiot. Picture: Johan Persson

Newton Faulkner becomes an American idiot

FOLLOWING a smash hit run at Leicester Square's Arts Theatre last year and a hugely popular UK tour, American Idiot, the show, based on the music of punk rock group Green Day, has returned to the West End ***writes Nicky Sweetland.***

At the helm, and making his London stage debut, is singer songwriter Newton Faulkner, who joins returning cast members Amelia Lily and Lucas Rush for the show which opened last week.

Newton Faulkner shot to fame in 2007, when his debut album, Built by Humans, including the hit single Dream Catch Me, topped the UK charts.

His subsequent works have been just as popular, with his second album, Rebuilt by Humans, the EP, Sketches and his third studio album, Write it on your Skin, all achieving huge commercial success.

Now the 31-year-old from Surrey is facing a brand new challenge and taking to the West End stage as Johnny in the smash hit musical American Idiot. I caught up with Newton, on the night of the first preview performance last week. I asked if the transition from rock star to stage star had been an easy one.

"It's been a massive learning curve for me, because I've never done anything like this before, so I've had a huge amount of stuff to make sense of. It was almost like a language barrier," Newton said.

"Now that I've got my head around the process, I've got to the point, where I can react to things, improvise and make more of the situations."

Green Day released their American Idiot album back in 2004, which was inspired by the epic rock-opera-style concept albums including Jesus Christ Superstar and The Who's Tommy. The album went multi-platinum and has sold over 15m copies to date. The stage musical version was first performed in 2009 and following a successful run on Broadway, transferred to London last year.

The story follows three disaffected young men, Johnny, Will and Tunny, who find small town life stifling. Johnny and Tunny flee suburbia in search of enlightenment, whilst Will stays at home to work out his relationship with his pregnant girlfriend. None of them quite find the fulfilment they desire and Johnny (Faulkner) turns to drugs to dull the pain of his disappointment in life.

American Idiot is playing at the Arts Theatre until September 25 - more information is on the website americanidiotthemusical.co.uk.

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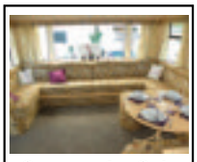

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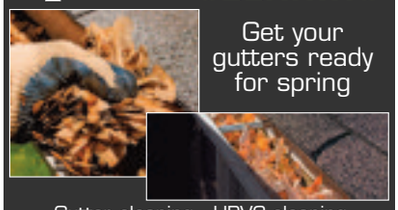
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Public Notices

LICENSING ACT 2003
Application for a new Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given Evenhold Limited has applied to the City of Westminster on 13/07/2016 for a new premises licence for Basement and Ground Floor, 16-18 upper Tachbrook Street, SW1V 1SH. The proposed application is to permit for the sale by retail of alcohol. Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing of his/her representation to: Licensing Service, 14th Floor, City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QP. The public register where applications are available to be viewed by members of the public can be accessed online by visiting at www.westminster.gov.uk/Licensing and following the link to the public register. The Licensing Authority must receive representations by the date given above. The Licensing Authority will have regard to any such representation in considering the application. It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is £5000.

Notice is hereby given that STARHOTELS UK LIMITED of 190 Queen's Gate SW7 5EX London have applied to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea for the GRANT of Premises Licence to carry on a business which involves the use of the premises for licensable activities: sale or supply of alcohol, Monday to Sunday, 00:00 - 00:00 (24 hours a day) for hotel residents; Monday to Sunday, 10:00 - 00:00 for hotel non-residents, for the premises **The Franklin Hotel** situated at **22-28 Egerton Gardens, London SW3 2DB**

A register of licensing applications is held by the Licensing Authority and can be inspected at http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/environmentandtransport/licensing/licensingregisters.aspx or at Council Offices, 37 Pembroke Road, W8 6PW, by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to our application must give notice in writing to Licensing Authority address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 8 August 2016. The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Sub-Committee and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. In the case of an application for a provisional statement, please note that representations will be restricted once a statement has been issued.

It is an offence liable on conviction to a fine up to Level 5 on the standard scale under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with this application.

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(BOSCOMBE ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility installation works to be carried out in the above named road; it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Boscombe Road between its junctions with Uxbridge Road and No 1 Boscombe Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Percy Road or Coningham Road, Findon Road, Boscombe Road.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the Monday 1st August 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on the 1st August 2016 and last for 21 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 12th day of July 2016.

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(RAVENSCOURT GARDENS)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility cleaning works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Ravenscourt Gardens between its junctions with Ravenscourt Square and Goldhawk Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Ravenscourt Park, King Street and Goldhawk Road.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 1st August 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Monday 1st August 2016 and last for 3 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 13th day of June 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(TADMOR ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate sewer repair works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Tadmor Street between Nos. 10 and 13 Tadmor Street.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Sterne Street and Caxton Road.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 8th August 2016 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Monday 8th August 2016 and last for 12 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 14th day of July 2016.

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(WILLIAM MORRIS WAY)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility installation works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of William Morris Way at its junctions with Townmead Road..
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Townmead Road, Watermeadow Lane and William Morris Way.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 8th August 2016 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Monday 8th August 2016 and last for 5 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 14th day of July 2016.

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

Public Notices

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(TADMOR ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate sewer repair works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Tadmor Street between Nos. 10 and 13 Tadmor Street.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Sterne Street and Caxton Road.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 8th August 2016 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Monday 8th August 2016 and last for 12 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 14th day of July 2016.

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(HARBOUR AVENUE)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate tower crane operations to be carried out in the above named road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road and suspend the taxi rank on Chelsea Harbour Drive at it's junction with Harbour Avenue.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Harbour Avenue between its junctions with Chelsea Harbour Drive and No. 214 Harbour Avenue.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Imperial Road, New Kings Road, Munster Road, Lille Road, Finborough Road and Lots Road.
4. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the taxi rank on Chelsea Harbour Drive at it's junction with Harbour Avenue shall be suspended.
5. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
6. The Order would come into operation on the 1st August 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
7. Works would be expected to commence on Monday 1st August 2016 and last for 2 days. With back up dates scheduled for the 8th/9th August or 15th/16th August or 22nd/23rd August. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 14th day of July 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(HAMMERSMITH ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate filming to be carried out in the above named road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in the eastbound lane of a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in the eastbound lane of a section of Hammersmith Road between its junction with Edith Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Talgarth Road and North End Road.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 8th August 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Monday 8th August 2016 and last for 1 day. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 13th day of June 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(STUDLAND STREET)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility repair works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Studland Street between its junctions with King Street and Felgate Mews.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via King Street, Goldhawk Road and Paddenswick Road.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 26th July 2016 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Tuesday 26th July 2016 and last for 1 day. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 7th day of July 2016.

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

Local Planning Applications
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

h&f putting residents first

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990
I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:
FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA
359 Fulham Palace Road London SW6 6TB 2016/03059/ADV
Display of an internally illuminated advertisement hoarding (4.5 metres high and 3 metres wide) on the south east facing flank elevation at first and second floor level.
Flat 2 4 Rylett Road London W12 9NL 2016/03060/FUL
Replacement of all single glazed timber framed sash windows to the front elevation at ground floor level with double glazed timber framed sash windows; and replacement of a single glazed timber framed sash window to the side elevation at ground floor level with a double glazed timber framed sash window in obscure glass.
4 Gransden Road London W12 9SA 2016/03065/FUL
Erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; erection of steel railings around remainder of flat roof of back addition at second floor level, in connection with its use as a roof terrace.
14 Ryecroft Street London SW6 3TT 2016/03109/FUL
Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition, after removal of the existing rear conservatory; excavation of the front garden to enlarge the existing front lightwell and the rear garden to form a lightwell, in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.
50 Dewhurst Road London W14 0ES 2016/03076/FUL
Excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.
Outside Celtic House 3 Black's Road London 2016/02682/FUL
Installation of 4no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 4no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays.
Outside 1-11 Caxton Road London 2016/02705/FUL
Installation of 2no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 2no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays.
To The Side Of 68 Waldemar Avenue London SW6 5LU 2016/02717/FUL
Installation of 2no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 2no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays.
To The Side Of Mortimer House North End Road London W14 0TL2016/02729/FUL
Installation of 4no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 4no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays.
Opposite Lady Margaret School Parsons Green London 2016/02741/FUL
Installation of 5no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 5no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays.
The Vineyard 76 Hurlingham Road London SW6 3NR 2016/03050/FUL
Erection of a single storey plus-basement outbuilding, including excavation under the car store to form a new basement level car parking and storage area following the demolition of existing shed; erection of a single storey extension to the existing cottage in the rear garden, including installation of new windows and doors to replace the existing; further excavation and enlargement of the existing basement under the main dwellinghouse; formation of a new brick flower bed in the rear garden; demolition and rebuilding of the boundary wall and gates to the southern elevation of the site; associated landscaping, internal and external alterations.
67 Queensmill Road London SW6 6JR 2016/03036/VAR
Variation of condition 2 of planning permission ref: 2015/01438/FUL granted 21st May 2015 to include the installation of 1no. rooflight above the main flat roof at roof level, omission of 3no. rooflights and installation 5no. rooflights above the roof of single storey side extension and installation of a new entrance gate to the side elevation.
Land To The South Of Wilson's Road London 2016/02994/FUL
Retention of 4no. two storey porta cabins (in connection with adjacent LAMDA site) for a temporary period until 31st January 2017; retention of associated external staircases and hoarding around the perimeter of the porta cabin, including access gates.
The Cross Keys 57 Black Lion Lane London W6 9BG 2016/03031/FUL
Installation of extract ducting to rear elevation at first floor level and on top of the flat roof at first floor level.
Maisonette First And Second Floors 23 Wandsworth Bridge Road London SW6 2TA 2016/03079/FUL
Erection of a front and rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; alterations to the roof of back addition to incorporate a flat roof and the erection of privacy screens around the flat roof at second floor level to the rear elevation in connection with its use as a terrace; installation of 2no rooflights in the front roofslope, 1no rooflight in the front gable roofslope and 1no rooflight above the main flat roof at roof level.
164 Uxbridge Road London W12 8AA 2016/03085/FUL
Installation of an ATM machine to the front elevation.
505 Fulham Road London SW6 1HH 2016/02998/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of two rooflights in the front roofslope; erection of two storey extension to the side of the main building ground and first floor; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition at lower ground; in connection with the conversion of the existing 1 x 1 bedroom and 1 x 3 bedroom residential units into 1 x 1 bedroom, 2 x 2 bedroom and 1 x 3 bedroom residential units.
Olympia Multistorey Car Park Maclise Road London 2016/03102/FUL
Replacement of existing ATM machine with a new ATM machine, removal of existing NatWest tablet and existing slip bin and alterations to external wall; associated internal and external alterations.
Flat First And Second Floors 25 Gunterstone Road London W14 9BP 2016/02818/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of French doors to replace the existing window, alterations to the roof of back addition to incorporate a flat roof and the erection of privacy screen around the flat roof at second floor level to the rear elevation, in connection with its use as a terrace; installation of 3no rooflights in the front roofslope; bricking up of existing window to the side of rear back addition at first floor level; replacement of all windows with new windows at first and second floor level.
100 Bronsart Road London SW6 6AB 2016/02530/FUL
Erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; alterations to the roof of back addition to incorporate a flat roof and the erection of glass balustrades around the flat roof at second floor level to the rear elevation in connection with its use as a terrace; installation of 2no windows to replace 1no window at first floor level to the rear elevation.
Opposite 46 Hurlingham Square London 2016/02742/FUL
Installation of 4no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 4no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays.
Outside Electricity Substation In Front Of 60-95 Hurlingham Court Ranelagh Gardens London 2016/02744/FUL
Installation of 4no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 4no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays.
1 South Park Mews London SW6 3AY 2016/02997/FUL
Erection of a single storey extension to the front, side and rear of the main building; conversion of the existing garage at ground floor level into a habitable room; and replacement of the garage door to the front elevation at ground floor level with a timber sash window.
Outside 104-106 Inglethorpe Street London 2016/02764/FUL
Installation of 3no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 3no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays.
Opposite 7 - 11 Winslow Road And Rear Of 112 - 114 Fulham Palace Road London 2016/02765/FUL
Installation of 2no. electrical charging points for vehicles and formation of 2no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays opposite 7 - 11 Winslow Road; installation of 1no. feeder pillar, 3no. electrical charging points for vehicles and formation of 3no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays to the rear of 112 - 114 Fulham Palace Road.
Outside 601 And 611 King's Road London 2016/02707/FUL
Installation of 3no. electrical charging points with barrier protection for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 3no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays.
28 Fitz-George Avenue London W14 0SN 2016/02940/FUL
Installation of a rooflight in the rear roofslope.
220 Fulham Palace Road London W6 9NT 2016/02896/FUL
Installation of 1no window to replace the existing window at ground floor level to the side elevation; installation of 2no air conditioning units above the roof of single storey back addition.
The Shrubbery Ashchurch Terrace London W12 9SL 2016/02836/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 1no. rooflight in the front roofslope, 2no. rooflights in the east side rooflsope and 2no. rooflights in the west side roofslope; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side and rear of the existing back addition replacing the existing single storey extension; and installation of a new black painted metal front gate and driveway gates within the front boundary wall.
94 And 96 Fitzneal Street London W12 0BB 2016/03034/FUL
Excavation of the rear gardens to No.s 94 and 96 to form a lightwell in connection with the creation of a new basements; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition to No. 96; replace existing window and door to rear elevation at ground floor level with folding doors to No. 94.(Revised description)
Crabtree Hall Crabtree Lane London 2016/03003/VAR
Minor material amendment application to vary Condition 2 of planning application ref: 2013/00915/FUL of which appeal ref: APP/H5390/A/13/2208376 was allowed on 25th March 2014 for the 'Erection of an additional floor at roof level in connection with the creation of 2 no. self contained flats (1 x 1 bedroom flat and 1 x 2 bedroom flat), including relocation of existing water tank, formation of 2 no. roof terraces and erection of balustrades around perimeter of existing roof to provide maintenance access.' Amendments to the approved drawings are proposed to the external appearance of the approved top floor to include an increase in the overall height of approximately 140mm above the consented scheme; removal of proposed planters around the entire perimeter of the existing roof level; replacement of glazed clerestorey with opaque glass around roof perimeter; and introduction of flat rooflights.
Flat Ground Floor 121 Hurlingham Road London SW6 3NJ 2016/02969/FUL
Erection of a single storey rear extension following the demolition of the existing rear conservatory at ground floor level; and excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.
Olympia Multistorey Car Park Maclise Road London 2016/03105/ADV
Display of an internally illuminated ATM surround.
217 Askew Road London W12 9AZ 2016/03090/FUL
Use of part of the flat roof at second floor level as a terrace; erection of balustrades around the perimeter of the terrace.
50 Dewhurst Road London W14 0ES 2016/03078/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition; alterations to the pitch roof of single storey back addition to form a flat roof.
1 St Dionis Road London SW6 4UQ 2016/03004/FUL
Erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition; installation of a round window in side elevation at roof level; replace existing window and door to rear elevation at first floor level with sliding doors; erection of an external staircase from first floor level to the rear garden.
40 And 42 Bowerdean Street London SW6 3TW 2016/03011/FUL
Erection of single storey rear extensions to the side of the existing back additions, installation of new doors to replace the existing and alterations to the roof of single storey back additions to both properties at no. 40 and 42 Bowerdean Street; excavation of the rear and part of the front garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement and front lightwell to property no. 42 Bowerdean Street.
Flat A 50 Lillie Road London SW6 1TN 2016/03015/FUL
Erection of a two storey rear extension at second and third floor level, on top of the existing back addition; installation of a new glazed roof hatch to replace the existing rooflight and the formation of a roof terrace over the main flat roof at roof level; conversion of first, second and third floor level into 3 x one bedroom self-contained flats.
22 Shepherd's Bush Place London W12 8LX 2016/03020/FUL
Installation of 2no rooflights in the rear roofslope.
Flat Ground Floor 2 Gransden Road London W12 9SA 2016/03064/FUL
Erection of a single storey rear extension to the side and rear of the existing back addition, replacing the existing conservatory.
36 Leysfield Road London W12 9JF 2016/02990/FUL
Erection of an additional floor at roof level.
39 Overstone Road London W6 0AD 2016/02957/FUL
Installation of black painted iron railings to replace existing around the front forecourt; erection of a new white painted timber refuse storage cupboard to the forecourt following the removal of the existing brick dustbin shelter and bike shed.
Land adjacent to 51-70 Waldemar Avenue Mansions Waldemar Avenue London SW6 5LX 2016/03035/FUL
Erection of a two storey detached dwelling house with basement and front, side and rear lightwells; erection of a one storey building with basement and front, side and rear lightwells, to be used as community space at ground floor level and office space at basement level; associated landscaping, to include a multi-sensory garden space with kitchen garden, allotments and seating.
Land Adjacent To 51-70 Waldemar Avenue Mansions Waldemar Avenue London SW6 5LX 2016/03081/FUL
Erection of a two storey detached dwelling house with basement and front, rear and side lightwells, with associated garden at front and rear.
60 Parsons Green Lane London SW6 4HU 2016/02927/FUL
Installation of new gates to side of the main building; alterations and extension to platform and handrails at the rear of the building.
29 Southerton Road London W6 0PJ 2016/03041/FUL
Erection of an additional floor at roof level.

FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK)
FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT
22 Shepherd's Bush Place London W12 8LX 2016/02347/LBC
Installation of 2no rooflights in the rear roofslope.
Olympia Multistorey Car Park Maclise Road London 2016/03103/LBC
Replacement of existing ATM machine with a new ATM machine, removal of existing NatWest tablet and existing slip bin, display of an internally illuminated ATM surround and alterations to external wall; internal alterations to include the relocation of Desk and router shelf.
The Vineyard 76 Hurlingham Road London SW6 3NR 2016/03051/LBC
Erection of a single storey plus-basement outbuilding, including excavation under the car store to form a new basement level car parking and storage area following the demolition of existing shed; erection of a single storey extension to the existing cottage in the rear garden, including installation of new windows and doors to replace the existing; further excavation and enlargement of the existing basement under the main dwellinghouse; formation of a new brick flower bed in the rear garden; demolition and rebuilding of the boundary wall and gates to the southern elevation of the site; associated landscaping, internal and external alterations.

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING
582 Fulham Road London SW6 5NT 2016/03114/FUL
Installation of an ATM machine to the front elevation.
582 Fulham Road London SW6 5NT 2016/03115/ADV
Display of a non-illuminated ATM surround.
The Vineyard 76 Hurlingham Road London SW6 3NR 2016/03050/FUL
Erection of a single storey plus-basement outbuilding, including excavation under the car store to form a new basement level car parking and storage area following the demolition of existing shed; erection of a single storey extension to the existing cottage in the rear garden, including installation of new windows and doors to replace the existing; further excavation and enlargement of the existing basement under the main dwellinghouse; formation of a new brick flower bed in the rear garden; demolition and rebuilding of the boundary wall and gates to the southern elevation of the site; associated landscaping, internal and external alterations.
The Cross Keys 57 Black Lion Lane London W6 9BG 2016/03031/FUL
Installation of extract ducting to rear elevation at first floor level and on top of the flat roof at first floor level.
Olympia Multistorey Car Park Maclise Road London 2016/03102/FUL
Replacement of existing ATM machine with a new ATM machine, removal of existing NatWest tablet and existing slip bin and alterations to external wall; associated internal and external alterations.
Olympia Multistorey Car Park Maclise Road London 2016/03105/ADV
Display of an internally illuminated ATM surround.
1 St Dionis Road London SW6 4UQ 2016/03004/FUL
Erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition; installation of a round window in side elevation at roof level; replace existing window and door to rear elevation at first floor level with sliding doors; erection of an external staircase from first floor level to the rear garden.
22 Shepherd's Bush Place London W12 8LX 2016/03020/FUL
Installation of 2no rooflights in the rear roofslope.
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 9th August 2016. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013
NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13
14 Greyhound Road London W6 8NX 2016/02745/FUL
I give notice that Mr Alex Hibbitt is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Change of use of ground and lower ground floor levels from office (Class B1) into 2 x two bedroom self-contained residential flats (C3); erection of a single storey rear extension following the demolition of existing warehouse building and alterations to the external fenestration at ground floor level, to the side and rear of the back addition; erection of a single storey front infill extension; erection of metal railings at the front and rear of the property, alterations to the front fenestration at ground floor level to include the installation of new doors and windows; excavation of the rear and part of the front garden to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; enlargement of the side lightwells at basement level.
14 Greyhound Road London W6 8NX 2016/02748/FUL
I give notice that Mr Alex Hibbitt is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Change of use of ground and lower ground floor levels from office (Class B1) into 1 x one bedroom and 1 x two bedroom self-contained residential flats (C3); erection of a single storey rear extension following the demolition of existing warehouse building and alterations to the external fenestration at ground floor level, to the side and rear of the back addition; erection of a single storey front infill extension; erection of metal railings at the front and rear of the property, alterations to the front fenestration at ground floor level to include the installation of new doors and windows; excavation of the rear and part of the front garden to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; enlargement of the side lightwells at basement level.
Fulham Police Station Heckfield **Place London SW6 5NL 2016/02774/FUL**
I give notice that Education Funding Agency is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Demolition of existing buildings in connection with redevelopment of the site to provide a new 800 pupil secondary school, a Metropolitan Police Service Front Counter Facility and 9 residential units. The proposal constitutes a major development.
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by **9th August 2016**. See below for ways of commenting on applications.
Signed: **NIGEL PALLACE**
Executive Director for Transport and Technical Services on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL
You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. Click on the 'Planning Online' logo on the Planning Home Page.
You can also E-mail comments to: plancomments@lbhf.gov.uk
You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office **RECEPTION FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET W6** between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays. If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE ENVIRONMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL KING STREET W6 9JU** by the date shown above. Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly. For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on **020 8753 1081** or **020 8753 1082.**

lbhf.gov.uk/planning Online
Send us your comments about planning applications via our website: **www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning**

Public Notices

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(HAMMERSMITH ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate filming for television to be carried out in the above named road; it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in the eastbound lane in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in the eastbound lane of Hammersmith Road between its junctions with Hammersmith Broadway and Uxbridge Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be provided via Hammersmith Broadway, Talgarth Road and Shortlands.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 1st August 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Monday 1st August 2016 and last for 1 day. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 14th day of July 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(BECKLOW ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate filming for television to be carried out in the above named road; it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Becklow Road between its junctions with Askew Road and Uxbridge Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be provided.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 9th August 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Tuesday 9th August 2016 and last for 1 day. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 14th day of July 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2015 (AS AMENDED)
ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

NOTICE OF MAKING OF ARTICLE 4(1) DIRECTION RELATING TO:
154 Cromwell Road, SW7 4EF
111 Earl's Court Road, SW5 9RL
28 Golborne Road, W10 5PF
52 Golborne Road, W10 5PR
341 Ladbroke Grove, W10 6DW
395 King's Road, SW10 0LR
76 Tavistock Road, W11 1AN

NOTICE IS GIVEN by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, being the appropriate Local Planning Authority, that it has made a Direction under Article 4(1) of the Town and County Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) (GPDO).

The Direction was made on 22nd July 2015 and applies to:

154 Cromwell Road, SW7 4EF
111 Earl's Court Road, SW5 9RL
28 Golborne Road, W10 5PF
52 Golborne Road, W10 5PR
341 Ladbroke Grove, W10 6DW
395 King's Road, SW10 0LR
76 Tavistock Road, W11 1AN

The Direction applies to the development described in the following Class of the GPDO:-

Schedule 2, Part 3, Class M, in so far as it relates to development consisting of

(a) a change of use of a building from a use as a launderette to a use falling within Class C3 (dwellinghouses) of the Schedule to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987, and

(b) building operations reasonably necessary to convert the building referred to in paragraph (a) to a use falling within Class C3 (dwellinghouses) of the said Schedule to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987

not being development comprised within any other class.

The effect of the Direction is that the permission granted by Article 3 of the GPDO shall not apply to such development and such development shall not be carried out within these addresses unless planning permission is granted by the Council.

A copy of the Direction and the relevant site plans may be seen at the offices of the Council within the Customer Service Centre, the Town Hall, Hornton Street, London, W8 7NX during normal office hours or can be viewed in the on the Council's website at www.rbkc.gov.uk

Representations may be made concerning the aforementioned Article 4 Direction between 22nd July and 2nd September 2016. If you would like to make representations, the Council would prefer to receive your representations by email at planningpolicy@rbkc.gov.uk. You may also send representations by post. Please address these to the Executive Director, Planning and Borough Development, Policy Team, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Town Hall, Hornton Street, London, W8 7NX. Whether using email or post please put the following reference on your representation -**"Representation for the Non-immediate Article 4 – Launderettes."** Please specify which property your representation relates to. Any representation must be received by the Council **by 5 pm on 2nd September 2016** and should include your name, postal address and, if desired, an e-mail address.

It is proposed that the Direction will come into force on 24th July 2017, subject to the consideration of any representations received during the consultation period and the Direction being confirmed by the Council.
Dated: 22 July 2016
Signed

Director of Law and duly authorised officer of the Council

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(RAVENSCOURT GARDENS)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility cleaning works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Ravenscourt Gardens between its junctions with Ravenscourt Square and Goldhawk Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Ravenscourt Park, King Street and Goldhawk Road.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 1st August 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Monday 1st August 2016 and last for 3 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 13th day of June 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

Cousins makes 'right move'

IN another strategic move that bodes well for the future at Queens Park Rangers, R's last week signed midfielder Jordan Cousins from recently relegated Charlton Athletic on a three-year contract.

Cousins, 22, became Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's fourth summer signing, following the arrival of Ariel Borysiuk, Joel Lynch and Jake Bidwell.

The initial fee is undisclosed but believed to be £1.5m, potentially rising to £2m with add-ons and includes a sell-on clause.

Despite his young age, Greenwich-born Cousins has racked up nearly 150 appearances in his short career. His seven goals in Addicks' colours included the neatly executed curler he scored in their 2-1 defeat at Loftus Road last April, shortly before dropping into League One.

Hasselbaink said: "When I arrived here, I spoke at length about the kind of players I wanted to attract to QPR – and Jordan fits that bill exactly.

"He's young, he's hungry, he's got Championship experience and he's got great potential to keep on improving at QPR.

Box-to-box

Although Cousins has featured both centrally and wide for the south Londoners, Hasselbaink

LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW
With Tony McDonald

believes the former is his best position: "He's a box-to-box midfielder and that's where I see him featuring for us.

"His energy and ability to score goals from midfield were two big factors in our desire to bring him here. He's someone who has been on our radar for a while."

The progress of Cousins, capped by England at U17 and U21 level, has been one of precious few positives amid Charlton's problems on and off the field. Fans voted him Player of the Year in each of the last two seasons at The Valley but remaining with them in the third tier would have been a big step backwards.

He said: "I felt this was the right time for me to move on – and for it to be to a massive club like QPR is a real pleasure for me," he said.

He added: "I spoke to the manager at length and we share similar beliefs as to how the game should be played.

"I know what he is looking for from me as a central midfielder and I'm excited about pulling on the QPR shirt and showing the fans what I'm capable of.

"I want to be the best player I possibly can be – and hopefully I can produce the best football of my career for QPR."

BBC Radio London pundit Bradley Allen, the former QPR and Charlton striker, said: "I would say that he's best as an attacking midfield player. In a 4-2-3-1, for instance, he could act as one of the three men behind the striker. He can play wide or central. He has the athleticism to get up and down, from box to box. I think he can add goals to the group as well. If he can do that, it'd take the burden off the front men.

"He's versatile. Jordan can play anywhere across midfield, and in a number of different formations. He can play at full-back, too. That sort of versatility, especially for a player who's so young, will be of great benefit to the squad. His arrival adds depth.

"I think he'll prove to be a tremendous signing for Rangers – I really do," Allen added.

QPR continue their build-up to the new season with away friendlies against Wycombe Wanderers on Friday (22nd – all ticket) and at Burton Albion next Tuesday. For ticket info, visit the club's official website at www.qpr.co.uk

JORDAN Cousins brings versatility to R's midfield Pic: PA

SIX of the best: Match-winner John Simpson Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

Sensational Simpson

● COUNTY CRICKET ROUND-UP

UNBEATEN County Championship leaders Middlesex keep serving up the drama and thrills.

Wicketkeeper/batsman John Simpson hit a six with two balls remaining to clinch a sensational two-wicket win over Somerset on his 28th birthday.

Set 302 to win from 46 overs at Taunton, Middlesex needed eight from the last and Simpson lofted Jim Allenby over long leg to finish 79 not out. Nick Gubbins contributed 76 and James Fuller smashed 36 from only 18 balls.

Lauded

Somerset, 348-6 overnight, earlier declared on 446-9 but skipper Chris Rogers later defended his decision. Rather than criticised, he should be lauded for encouraging a result instead of taking the easy, safe option and settling for another bore draw.

Middlesex, who began the game with a one-point lead at the top of Division One, extended it to 14 points because of Warwickshire's draw with Hampshire and Lancashire's week off.

Fuller, who took three wickets in the morning session before adding punch to the run chase with three sixes in his cameo, also played a key role.

Allenby was given the responsibility of the final over and with six needed from four balls, left-hander Simpson swept a leg-stump delivery over the longest boundary on the ground.

Simpson, who also claimed nine catches, said: "I'd probably say that was my best knock under that kind of pressure. It was a fantastic chase and all credit to the boys. At the end it was pure elation – as good as it gets."

Somerset must be sick of the sight of Simpson. He was also not out for 23 at the death as the visitors improved their T20 Blast position with a five-wicket victory over the same opposition at Taunton last Friday.

Set a dismal 138 to win by the side bottom of the southern group, Middlesex coasted to victory when Simpson hit a six off the first ball of the final over and are now fourth in the southern section table – four points behind second-placed Glamorgan with a game in hand. Their lingering hopes of qualifying for the quarter-finals will rest heavily on back-to-back matches this week, against local rivals Surrey at Lord's on Thursday and away to Hampshire the following night.

Hoists hit back

● RUGBY LEAGUE

HAMMERSMITH Hills Hoists got back to winning ways with an emphatic victory away at Medway Dragons.

It was clear the men in green and gold were fired up, as Hayden Turner crossed the whitewash to open the scoring within the first two minutes. Hoists dominated the half and went into the break with a 32-0 lead.

But confronted with the handicap of playing up the steep hill and against a strong wind, conditions helped the Dragons and the second half was a much tighter affair.

Despite Dragons scoring three tries in the second stanza, Hoists were able to see out the game and win 50-18.

The man of the match vote went to Brody 'The Watchmaker' Baker who in recent weeks has emerged as a real leader of the forward pack. His strong carries, offloading game and dominant defence have been key to laying the platform for sustained success and ensuring Hoists are improving physically.

Their next game is against Surrey Sharks on Saturday, when the green and golds will be looking to maintain their challenge for the Minor Premiership.

MIDDLESEX seamer Steven Finn (above) is fighting for his England future after an ineffectual performance in the first Investec Test defeat by Pakistan on his home ground.

He is almost certain to be dropped from the side for the second Test at Old Trafford, starting on Friday, and will struggle to regain his place for the rest of the summer after failing to take a wicket at the Home of Cricket, where he – along with Notts' Jake Ball – was selected ahead of county colleague Toby Roland-Jones.

Lacking rhythm and swing and also down on pace, a despondent Finn shipped 128 runs in 34 overs as England lost a thrilling finale on an excellent pitch by 75 runs – the first red ball game played at Lord's this season to produce a result.

Mohammad Amir, returning to the ground where he was exposed for cheating six years ago, sealed victory.

Surrey off the bottom

A DRAW with County champions Yorkshire earned Surrey 10 points and lifted them off the bottom of Division One.

After play had been lost to rain on the first two days, not even Adam Lyth's 202 could secure victory for the Tykes at The Kia Oval.

His 291-ball knock helped Yorkshire to maximum batting bonus points and 407 all out, a first-innings lead of 140.

Surrey reached 106-1 in their second innings, opener Dominic Sibley making 54 not out, before a draw was agreed.

The futility of the last day stalemate was best summed up by the fact that Surrey utilised EIGHT bowlers, including a solitary over from wicketkeeper Andy Hodd.

It's not as if the white ball game is proving any consolation. The Browncaps suffered an eight-wicket T20 Blast defeat by Kent at Tunbridge Wells last Friday, when an unbeaten 112 from opener Daniel Bell-Drummond saw the Spitfires safely home.

Jason Roy (52), Chris Morris (125) and Steve Davies (23) were the highest scoring visitors.

London Weekly News

SPORT

Tuesday, July 19th, 2016 ● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427

■ ANTONIO Conte at his unveiling as Chelsea's new head coach

Blues still Fox hunting

● By LWN reporter **Paul Lagan**
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

CHELSEA are closing in on their third signing of the summer, following the arrival on Saturday of N'Golo Kante and earlier this month Michy Batshuayi.

They will be returning to Leicester City, the scene of their £32million acquisition of midfielder Kante, to attempt to prise winger Riyad Mahrez from the Premier League champions.

A £350,000 capture from French side Le Havre in 2014, Leicester can expect to sell the Algerian for close on £30m.

The Foxes want him to sign a new contract worth in excess of £100k a week.

But it's believed he will turn that down, triggering a bidding war. Chelsea hope to have stolen a march on rivals Arsenal, who are also keen.

Antonio Conte was unveiled as Blues' new head coach on Thursday. The former Italy and Juventus boss presented a calm, sincere persona matched by his sartorial elegance.

But he has a combustible side which he exhibited again on Saturday, when his charges lost his opening game 2-0 to Rapid Vienna.

None of those involved in Euro 2016 were in attendance. They, along with Kante and hopefully Mahrez, will join the squad when they head for a pre-season tour of the USA later this week.

Work hard for the team

Conte said of new defensive midfielder Kante: "I want to say Kante was a target and for this reason I'm very happy the club bought the player.

"He's a good player. He has good technique, fantastic stamina and I like this type of player. If you want to win, a team needs this kind – a Kante, Matic and Mikel – that work hard for the team.

"We identified him, me and the club together, and I think Kante can give a lot to Chelsea, to enforce a zone which is very important if we want to play with two central midfielders. He showed last season he's able to play with another midfielder. I think with this player we've reinforced the squad.

"All together we are working to improve the squad. We know we have to but we prefer to wait and go for our targets, rather than go with emotion and take players who don't adapt to our idea of football. I'm also very happy about Batshuayi."

On the poor display in Vienna, Conte said: "This is the first game for us but I knew it would be very difficult after three days of double training.

"They were very hard sessions, not ones to enjoy, all about the physical and tactical aspect. I think it was a bit normal to meet these difficulties in the game but I don't like to lose and it's the same for my players.

"I think the game was very important because we can learn a lot from it. It's important to switch our minds to change. The past is not important, we must build through the work of our present and future."

Asmir Begovic, who played in goal while Belgium keeper Thibaut Courtois enjoys his post-Euro 2016 holiday, said of the Rapid defeat: "We are buying into what the manager wants us to do. We are working hard to try and improve. We're working in a different way, so it's going to take a bit of time to process but, so far so good. Over time, we'll get better.

"He communicates very well, so he got his message across at half-time and before the game. We expect to work hard, that's part of pre-season. We're trying to be very disciplined. The work ethic is very strong."

As LWN Sport revealed earlier in the summer, Colombia winger Juan Cuadrado will be returning to SW6 following his loan spell at Juventus. His arrival will spark the permanent exit of Victor Moses when the transfer window opens on August 1. Also expected to leave is Serbia midfielder Nemanja Matic. The 27-year-old has the option of joining Juventus.

Of Cuadrado, Conte said: "He is a Chelsea player, he will come back very soon. He's in our squad, I'm very happy to have him and train him. I wanted him when I was the coach at Juventus and he will come back very soon and train and play with us. Now he's a Chelsea player and he'll stay with us."

LWN Sport understands that Conte vetoed Chelsea's final pre-season match on August 7 against CSKA Moscow which was to be played in Russia. Instead, Blues have re-arranged their schedule for somewhere closer to home and will now face Bundesliga side Werder Bremen.

Their USA tour means they face Liverpool on July 28, Real Madrid (30th) and AC Milan (Aug 4).

This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

■ **WHILE the first team were losing in Austria, a Chelsea X1 – featuring a number of players who went out on loan last season but have yet to be fixed up for the new campaign – lost to French side Bergerac Perigord at Cobham.**

They included Jordan Houghton, Alex Davey and Alex Kiwomya, plus U21s Fankaty Dabo, Charlie Colkett and Jay Dasilva.

The visitors took the lead in the first half. Ex-U18s boss Joe Edwards, in his new role for this season looking after the loanees, brought on Charlie Wakefield, Trevoh Chalobah, Ruben Sammut and Luke McCormick but they could not prevent Blues losing 2-1.

The U18s beat QPR 2-0 on Saturday. Martell Taylor-Crossdale, 16, scored both goals for Jody Morris' side.

Moving up the ranks, the U21s came from behind to beat Charlton Athletic 2-1 on Friday. Ike Ugbo levelled the visitors' opener, with Taylor-Crossdale proving to be a scorer of some note by netting the winner.

John Swift has joined Reading on a permanent transfer, although an independent tribunal will determine the fee between the clubs. He had one first team outing as a sub, against Cardiff City in May 2014.

Kasey Palmer, 19, has gone on loan to Championship side Huddersfield Town for the season.

Focus on Craven Cottage

By TONY McDONALD

Whites tackle defensive woes

FULHAM have made two much needed defensive summer signings and are reportedly closing in on at least one more.

Centre-back Tomas Kalas makes the short trip up the road on a season-long loan deal from Whites' SW6 neighbours Chelsea.

Left-back Denis Odoi arrives from Belgian top flight club Lokeren for an undisclosed fee.

Fulham are also hoping to raid west London rivals Brentford for their goalkeeper David Button, although Bees' £2m asking price for a player entering the last year of his contract at Griffin Park could scupper any deal.

And reports continue to link Whites with Cardiff City left-back Scott Malone, with Jazz Richards possible featuring in a swap deal.

Kalas has spent 18 months on loan with Middlesbrough, playing 47 times as they reached the Championship Play-Off Final in 2014-15, before winning promotion as runners-up behind Burnley last season.

The 23-year-old, who can also play at right-back, began his career at his hometown club Sigma Olomouc, joining Chelsea for £5.2m in the summer of 2010.

After two seasons on loan at Dutch outfit Vitesse Arnhem, during which time he was named Czech Republic Young Player of the Year, he made his debut for his parent club in a 2-0 League Cup win at Arsenal in October 2013.

Ahead of the 2014-15 campaign he moved on loan to FC Cologne in Germany but joined Boro in a similar deal midway through the campaign.

Kalas also has a number of international caps, making his senior debut in November 2012 against local rivals Slovakia.

Three-year deal

Odoi is a 28-year-old right-footed full-back, who has impressed in Belgium playing on the left side. He has signed a three-year deal, with a club option for a further 12 months.

Odoi began his career at Oud-Heverlee Leuven, before moving to Sint-Truiden in 2009. Belgian giants Anderlecht then signed him for a reported £1.3m in 2011 and in each of his two seasons at the club he won the Belgian Pro League while also representing Anderlecht in Europe.

Odoi joined Lokeren in 2013 and made 37 appearances in his debut campaign as they finished fifth in the league and won the Belgian Cup. He made made 117 appearances for Lokeren in three years.

Odoi made his full Belgium debut in 2012 in a friendly against Montenegro.

Asked to describe himself as a player, Kalas told www.fulhamfc.com: "I'm quite athletic. I'm probably not 6.5 (feet tall) and 100 kilos but I'm probably faster that those who are. I can jump quite high, I'm aggressive and I don't like to lose."

In his first interview since signing, Odoi said all the right things: "Fulham is a big club with tradition. I also spoke to Moussa Dembélé – the Belgian one – who had a lot of only positive things to say about the club, so that helped me a lot. He said Fulham is a nice club, professional, like a big family.

"I've played as a left-back for the past three years but I can also play on the right. My main qualities are speed and agility."

After Tuesday's (19th) friendly at Brighton, Fulham head to Spain and Portugal for warm-up matches against Real Betis (at Huelva) on Saturday and CD Nacional (at Albufeira) next Monday, before returning home to face Crystal Palace at The Cottage on July 30.

COUSINS: 'RIGHT TIME TO JOIN QPR' – page 27